

Hilda Solis – Secretary of Labor

Hilda Solis was born in 1957. She received a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University and a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

Solis worked for the Carter administration in the White House office of Hispanic Affairs, and was later appointed as a management analyst within the Office on Management and Budget's civil rights division.

Solis served two years in the California State Assembly and another six in the California State Senate, where she was the first Latina ever elected. In 1996, she played an instrumental role in raising California's minimum wage from \$4.25 per hour to \$5.75 per hour.

In 2000, Solis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has served four consecutive terms. Most notably, she wrote legislation that authorized \$125 million for workforce training programs that specifically targeted "green collar" and energy efficient jobs.

Solis served as a co-vice chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, as well as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment. In 2000, she became the first woman to ever receive a Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library for her work on environmental justice issues.

Sources:

Holland, Jesse. *AP Source: Rep. Hilda Solis is Obama's Labor Pick*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, December 18, 2008.

Office of United States Congresswoman Hilda Solis. *Hilda L. Solis: Long Biography*. Retrieved on December 18, 2008, from http://solis.house.gov/biography/biography_long.shtml.