

SOLIS CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF LABOR

After a lengthy confirmation process, the Senate votes 80-17 to confirm the nomination of Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) to serve as labor secretary.

In her testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Solis stated that she hopes to be “a voice for working families.” She pledged to work with Congress in “pursuit of our common goal—a genuine opportunity for every family to achieve the American dream.” Solis highlighted four areas on which she hopes to concentrate as labor secretary, including job training, safe and fair workplaces, retirement security, and civil rights enforcement. She also expressed concern for military veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who need job training and job search assistance. In addition, she spoke of promoting “green collar jobs,” which she described as a way to reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

Solis spent eight years in the California Legislature, where in 1996 she led the battle to increase the state’s minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 6, January 12, 2009, pp. A16-A18; No. 35, February 25, 2009, p. A1.)