

One-Page Biography of Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL-4), Updated May 2012

Now in his tenth term, Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez has established himself as an effective legislator and energetic spokesman on behalf of his constituents in Illinois' Fourth District in the heart of Chicago. At the same time, Rep. Gutierrez' tireless leadership championing the causes of Latino and immigrant communities has earned him widespread acclaim and national recognition.

He is a senior Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, serving as the of the Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology in the 110th Congress, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee in the 111th Congress, and as the Ranking Member of the Housing, Insurance, and Community Opportunity Subcommittee in the 112th Congress. He played a significant role in shaping the ("Dodd-Frank") Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in the 111th Congress, focusing particularly on consumer credit issues, remittances, and preventing future tax-payer funded bailouts of financial firms deemed "too big to fail."

There has not been an elected official more committed or more passionate about protecting and advocating for our nation's immigrants than Rep. Gutierrez. He has been at the forefront every significant legislative battle in Washington and around the country for more than a decade and leads the effort to pass bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Task Force on Immigration. He was instrumental in guiding the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (H.R. 5281) to passage in the House of Representatives in 2010. The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (HR. 4321), which Rep. Gutierrez drafted on behalf of the CHC in the 111th Congress, garnered more than 100 co-sponsors and is the starting point for serious immigration reform moving forward.

In the absence of immigration reform, Rep. Gutierrez has led the effort to convince the White House and Department of Homeland Security to prevent the deportation of immigrants with deep roots in the U.S. and no significant criminal history, including immigrants from military families, families that include U.S. citizens, and DREAM Act youth, among other groups of immigrants. He has both trumpeted the President's sensible plan to prioritize the deportation of criminals ahead of immigrants with significant equities in the U.S. and has championed the cases of individual immigrants facing deportation. In 2009 and again in 2010 and 2011, Rep. Gutierrez took to the road to hear from immigrants and their families in more than 40 cities, both building support for immigration reform and documenting the necessity of reform to keep American families together.

As Republican-led gridlock in Congress has stalled meaningful federal immigration reform, the Congressman has been a stalwart opponent of racial profiling and anti-immigrant laws in Arizona, Alabama, South Carolina, and elsewhere. He has traveled the country to speak out about and speak out for families and communities that have been targeted and marginalized by such laws.

Married and both a father and grandfather, Rep. Gutierrez was born and raised in Chicago to parents who had themselves migrated to Chicago from Puerto Rico in the early 1950s. He previously served as an Alderman in the City of Chicago and has been a teacher, a social worker and a cab driver, among other diverse experiences.

Recent and archival TV interviews with the Congressman can be found at his YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/RepLuisGutierrez>