

**RESPONSES SUBMITTED BY:
Del. ANA SOL GUTIERREZ
CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS, MARYLAND 8TH DISTRICT**

Campaign Profile:

Please attach a brief bio that includes contact information and the following:

· Candidate Name:

ANA SOL GUTIERREZ

· Office Being Sought

**REPRESENTATIVE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARYLAND 8TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

· Experience

EXTENSIVE! SEE ATTACHED BIO AND RESUME

As an elected official, I have fought for social justice and for those without a voice for over 25 years. My public policy experience, knowledge and commitment to progressive issues, and proven record of performance, I'm highly qualified to represent CD-08 in Congress. Whether fighting for education and public schools, working for fair access to driver's licenses for immigrants, or passing gun safety legislation, I'm not afraid to fight for hard working families and children.

· Campaign Contributions & Cash on Hand

APPROXIMATELY \$480 K TO DATE; \$360K ON HAND

· Endorsements received:

- **CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS-BOLD PAC (All 26 Hispanic Congressional members, including my hero, Cong. Luis Gutierrez)**
- **NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NHCSL), (Executive Board and other individual State legislators)**
- **LATINAS PODER PAC (Latinas Electing Latinas)**
- **CASA IN ACTION/ CASA DE MARYLAND**
- **SALVADORAN-AMERICAN HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION**

Questionnaire:

1. Despite record low unemployment in many sectors of the economy, African Americans continue to have high unemployment rates, especially among African American teens and young adults. Please explain what initiative you would propose to address this economic imbalance.

I would support initiatives that provide more funding and/or tax-credits to create

on-the-job training opportunities with local businesses or trade unions for high school students and recent HS graduates. I would also increase available funding to expand participation of minority student in dual-study programs, for students who can attend community college for credit while completing their high school program. I would promote initiatives that prepare and mentor students as part of their first-job opportunities or expand temporary jobs during the summer or while in school, especially for minority youth.

I have been a long-time supporter of public investments in high quality, high wage jobs as the fundamental building block of a strong economy. I will oppose federal legislation that would cut and/or reverse programs that have been proven to promote the creation of high quality jobs.

2. If elected, what will be your legislative priorities during your first term as a member of Congress?

My legislative priority areas during my first term include:

- a.) THE ECONOMY--JOBS**
- b.) IMMIGRATION REFORM**
- c.) CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
- d.) FUND AND EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Specific initiatives include:

- **Repeal of Citizens United**
- **Protection of President Obama Major Initiatives: Affordable Care Act, Dream Act, and implementation of Executive Actions for immigrant students and families (DACA and DAPA)**
- **Introduce Budget Actions to Eliminate wasteful Pentagon spending to increase discretionary spending for education, health, housing, transportation, etc.**

3. For several years, the Obama Administration has attempted to change the laws to stop the relocation of American businesses to foreign countries. What is your position on corporate inversion?

I am opposed to corporate inversion and would propose and support policies that implement high penalties and/or prohibitions of such practices. I would also require any U.S. corporation that has received federal, state, or local funding to refund the total amount received, including interest prior to moving their business to another country.

On a closely related issue, U.S. trade policies and agreements unfortunately have supported the interests of U.S. and global corporations, against the interests of U.S. workers and all workers internationally. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to the TPP and similar trade agreements that limit other nation's ability to protect its workers, unions, its manufacturing base, and its environment and natural resources.

4. Student debt (currently at 1.4 trillion) exceeds credit card debt in the United States: Do you support free community college? If so, how would you implement it with a Republican controlled Congress and what role would you play as a member of Congress to alleviate student debt and ensure college is affordable?

Yes, I fully support Obama's Free Community College proposal to waive tuition and fees for low-income students that will ensure that huge debts do not prevent more students from accessing higher education and graduating from college. I would support federal legislation that would match state investments as a start to make two years of college free and universal, similar to our public schools.

I will sponsor bi-partisan legislation to create a Federal program to fund a program with a 3-to-1 fund-match to States that want to implement a free community college system. I believe that this issue crosses party lines, and would attract bi-partisan support because it expands and builds upon existing federal programs such as Pell grants and other federal higher education financial aid programs.

I would similarly sponsor federal legislation to create a Federal-to-State public fund to help refinance student debt, similar to the successful re-financing programs that are currently operational in North Dakota Public Bank and are being initiated in a number of other states, using public funds. I introduced enabling legislation for creating public funding institutions in Maryland (HB 794) again this year that would allow establishment of such student debt refinancing programs by county and local governments .

5. What federal initiative(s) would you support or propose to address the disparity in the criminal justice system as it affects African Americans?

I would support federal legislation that would reduce sentences for nonviolent federal offenses. Legislation on prison and sentencing reforms would reduce mandatory minimums, especially for drug violations and victimless crimes, as well as reduce disparate high rates of incarceration of African Americans and Latino. I would also eliminate the building and/or expansion of federal private prisons and detention centers.

6. The Supreme Court is poised to decide Fisher v. University of Texas. Please explain your position on the role of affirmative action in higher education. What role should race play in college and postgraduate admission decisions?

I am a strong supporter of Affirmative Action in university admissions, employment programs, and workforce development as an important tool to promote diversity and equal opportunity. I believe the narrow Supreme Court decision ignored the historical evidence of discrimination against minorities and the inequitable opportunities that exist in our society. I believe it is important for progressive legislators to protect affirmative action initiatives from politically motivated efforts

to weaken, erode, and limit their effectiveness. I will support federal legislation that would strengthen and promote affirmative actions in response to the limitations placed on its use by educational institutions by the Supreme Court decision.

7. In December 2014, the Department of Justice announced new rules regarding racial profiling. Please explain whether you support or oppose those rules and provide a rationale for your position.

The US Justice Department expanded rules for racial profiling to prevent FBI agents from considering gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, in addition to race and ethnicity, when opening cases. The Department also banned racial profiling from national security cases for the first time. Although the revised policy covers state and local law enforcement officers while they participate in federal law enforcement task forces, it is only guidance for police officers in state and local departments.

Therefore, I would promote creation of federal policies and programs that strengthen state and local oversight and accountability of police conduct, promote increased funding for improved training of police officers, and that promote special training of police officers in cultural competency and racial/ethnic biases.

8. The Affordable Care Act promised competitive and quality healthcare plans for all Americans. What started as a solution to the millions of uninsured Americans has now become a financial burden for millions due to high out-of-pocket costs. If elected, what would you do to lower out-of-pocket costs including deductibles and make "affordable health care" a reality?

I am a strong supporter of universal healthcare and will seek future reforms to move the ACA in that direction. To address more immediate ACA concerns, I would co-sponsor and vote for legislation to repeal of the so-called Cadillac tax on health benefits that exceed currently limits established by the Affordable Care Act – originally intended to be applied to employers who offer health plans with an annual cost of more than \$10,200 for an individual and \$27,500 for a family. Because the tax will take effect in 2018, the next Congress must address the serious unanticipated consequences and the negative impact of a "Cadillac tax" on many employer health benefit plans. Due to the on-going increases in the cost of health care, the 40% tax will be applied to many more plans that exceed the costs above these originally established limits. Although the intent of this tax was to discourage employers from offering overly generous plans that allow procedures that are often

considered unnecessary and expensive, if the 40% tax is not repealed or amended before 2018, it will negatively impact too many employer and employees with higher than average costs of their health benefit plans. Because the tax is intended to help pay for other portions of the Affordable Care Act, repeal of the Cadillac tax must be carefully crafted as it could have a serious impact on the overall cost balance for providing broad access to health insurance to a greater number of individuals and families throughout the nation.

If elected, would you co-sponsor and vote for legislation that would repeal the “Reinsurance fee” (also known as the “Belly-Button Tax) of the Affordable Care Act?

I would co-sponsor and vote for legislation to repeal of the imposition of a reinsurance fee or “Belly-Button Tax” to all types of health benefit plans, including self-insured, self-administered plans. Under the Affordable Care Act, the reinsurance fee is charge on each person covered, i.e., policy holders and well as spouses and dependents, to create a fund to compensate insurance carriers which now have to cover more costly medical bills for higher risk beneficiaries buying coverage on government exchanges, for whom they previously could charge higher premiums. Many large employers and labor unions have fought this fee because it is a mechanism for subsidizing commercial insurance companies at levels that make their own self-insured and self-administered plans more costly and unaffordable. Recent DHS regulations have granted relief from this fee to organizations that offer these self-insured, self-administered plans. The ACA should be amended to exempt these plans.

I would co-sponsor and vote for legislation to allow all income-eligible workers to receive Premium Tax Credits (PTCs) regardless of how the purchased their health care and/or if the health care plan they participate in has resulted from a collective bargaining agreement. Currently the Affordable Care Act only provides these important subsidies, or PTCs which are refundable to individuals and families with low and moderate income who purchase health insurance through the government health insurance Marketplace or exchanges at the state or federal levels.