



## Solis wins easy committee approval

By: [Alex Isenstadt](#)

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Labor Secretary nominee Hilda Solis won easy approval of the Senate Health Education Pensions and Labor Committee Wednesday, clearing the way for a vote by the full Senate.

Solis' nomination had been held up by the committee for weeks, with Republicans expressing concern over the California congresswoman's ties to pro-union organizations. After her confirmation hearing last month, Republicans on the committee voiced frustration with what they saw as non-answers on questions related to her views on unions and the controversial union "card-check" bill before Congress.

"Hilda Solis comes from a working family herself so she understands how the troubled economy is hurting average Americans," said committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). "American workers deserve to have her voice and her leadership as their Secretary of Labor, and I'm pleased that our committee approved her."

The committee approved Solis on a voice vote, with two Republicans, Sens. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Pat Roberts of Kansas, voting "no."

In a statement Wednesday after the vote, the committee's top Republican, Wyoming Sen. Mike Enzi, acknowledged that he had expressed concerns over Solis but said: "I look forward to working with Solis in her new cabinet position."

Solis also faced scrutiny over her husband's history of back taxes, but Republican critics said they would not use her husband's tax problems against her.

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