



Panelist:

State Senator Amanda Aguirre

Arizona- District 24

CEO/President, Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.

Since 1991 Amanda Aguirre, M.A., R.D. has been the CEO/President of the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. a non-profit organization. She has also served as CEO/President for the San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc., a subsidiary non-profit Federal Rural Health Clinic of the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. since 2004. Amanda has been involved for more than 25 years in public health education and administration with a strong emphasis in U.S.-Mexico border health issues.

Last November, Senator Aguirre was re-elected to the 49th Arizona State Legislature and is currently serving as a member of several notable committees including Appropriations; Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform; and Natural Resources, Infrastructure & The Public Debt. She is also a member of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, which is directly involved in the budget making process, as well as the Joint Committee on Capital Review.

During her tenure, Governor Janet Napolitano appointed Senator Aguirre to several important positions including the Arizona Governor's Homeland Security Coordinating Council and the Arizona-Mexico Commission. In 2007, she was also appointed to serve as a member of the Arizona Homeland Security Coordinating Council by Senate President Tim Bee. Past appointments also include the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission by President Bill Clinton from 2000-2003.

Senator Aguirre has been recognized by numerous organizations for her work in border health issues. In March 2000, she received the OHTLI Award by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the highest distinguished award given by the country of Mexico to individuals living in a foreign country that have demonstrated a commitment to serve communities and families of Mexican origin. In September 2007, she received the "Policy Maker of the Year Award" from the Arizona Public Health Association. Most recently, Senator Aguirre has received the "30th Anniversary Partnership Award" from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the "2008 Arts Hero" award from the Arizona Action for the Arts, the "County Advocate" award from the County Supervisors Association of Arizona, the "Walk the Talk" Award from the Arizona Medical Association at the 2008 President's Banquet, and the "Friend of Cities and Towns" Award from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. In November 2008, Senator Aguirre was also presented with a

“Legislative Appreciation Award” by the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association at their annual luncheon.

Senator Aguirre holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry from the University of Sonora in Hermosillo, Sonora and a Master’s Degree in Nutrition with focus on feeding problems of children with developmental disabilities, from California State University in Los Angeles. Her most recent successful efforts include sponsoring a bill requiring insurance companies to cover the cost of treatment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. “Steven’s Law,” as the bill was called, was eventually signed by Governor Napolitano this past legislative session. Also in 2008 she sponsored the very much-needed legislation to prevent Identity Theft, SB 1163 -- credit report; score; security freeze, which passed unanimously through the Arizona State Senate and the House of Representatives.