

## **Texas Sen. Leticia Van de Putte (District 26)**

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, a pharmacist for more than 26 years, represents a large portion of San Antonio and Bexar County. A former five-term state representative, she now is serving her third term as a Texas State Senator for District 26. She is a strong advocate for children, veterans, improved access to health care, quality education and economic development issues. Sen. Van de Putte has been a key author of bills that reformed our welfare system, revamped our Juvenile Code and insured children.

In 2002 she became the chair of the Senate Hispanic Caucus and currently is chair of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus. Nationally, Sen. Van de Putte is a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, where she served as president from 2003 to 2005. She also has been actively involved in the National Conference of State Legislatures, and served as a member of the Executive Committee for three years. She takes office as president of NCSL in August, and also will serve on the Executive Committee of The Council of State Governments through 2006.

Sen. Van de Putte currently serves as chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committee, and also is a member of the Senate committees on Education, Administration, and Business and Commerce.

Multiple civic organizations and community groups have recognized Sen. Van de Putte as one of the most effective, hardworking, sincere and influential legislators in Texas. Over the past two decades, she has been honored with numerous awards such as the Vietnam Veterans of America's "Legislator of the Year Award," the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill's "Texas Legislative Champion Award," the United Way of San Antonio's "Children's Championship Award," the Texas Pharmacy Association's "Pharmacist of the Year," the American Pharmacists Association's "Hubert H. Humphrey" Award named for a noted pharmacist and public servant, and numerous others. Most recently, the Center for Policy Alternatives honored Sen. Van de Putte with the "Arthur S. Fleming Leadership Award." This national award is presented to a leader who exemplifies the ideals of public service through the highest standards of performance.

The Senator was a Kellogg Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1993. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy. Sen. Van de Putte currently lives in San Antonio with her husband of 28 years, Pete, and their six children.

