



Patricia Rojas
Vice President, Government Relations

Patricia Rojas serves as Vice President, Government Relations for the U.S. Travel Association where she manages the Association's government relations team. Ms. Rojas leads the development of the Association's policy agenda and represents the travel community before the Executive Branch and U.S. Congress. Ms. Rojas uses nearly a decade of legislative experience to advocate for federal policies and regulations that will increase travel to and within the United States.

For two consecutive years, Ms. Rojas has been honored as one of Washington's top lobbyist for her effectiveness in advancing the U.S. Travel Association's government affairs agenda. Most recently, she was selected as one of the "Top 40 Lobbyist Under 40" by *Washingtonian Magazine* and in 2010 she was featured in *CEO Update's* "Top Lobbyist Special Report."

Prior to joining the U.S. Travel Association in 2008, Ms. Rojas worked as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (ID-CT). Ms. Rojas provided analysis and counsel to Chairman Lieberman on a variety of homeland security matters with primary expertise in border and transportation security, immigration, counterterrorism and disaster recovery and mitigation. Her work on the Committee focused heavily on legislating and overseeing the implementation of a variety of travel security programs including Global Entry, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and U.S. VISIT. She was also involved in the development of travel security provisions included in legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The bill was signed into law in August 2007.

Ms. Rojas also brings valuable knowledge of the U.S. House of Representatives to U.S. Travel having worked for nearly five years in the office of Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D, CA-34) and a year for former Representative Ken Bentsen (D, TX-25). As a legislative assistant for Rep. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Rojas was responsible for developing and executing the Congresswoman's activity on the Appropriations Committee with primary focus on the budgets of the Commerce, Homeland Security, State and Justice Departments. Ms. Rojas also served as the Congresswoman's liaison for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Women's Caucus handling a variety of issues important to these constituencies.

Ms. Rojas earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and completed a Masters of Social Work from the University of Houston's Graduate School of Social Work. Ms. Rojas is an alumna of the National Democratic Institute's Political Leadership Program and the Stennis Center for Public Service Emerging Congressional Staff Leadership Program. She speaks fluent Spanish and has good knowledge of Portuguese. She also enjoys a good sports challenge and has completed the New York City Marathon and the Philadelphia Triathlon.

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