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Nina Turner endorses Amy Vilela for Congress

LAS VEGAS—Senator Nina Turner announced Thursday morning her endorsement of Amy Vilela's campaign for Nevada's First Congressional District. Turner, a former Ohio State Senator and congressional candidate in Ohio's 11th District, served as National Co-Chair for Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2020 Presidential Campaign. Vilela traveled the state and country alongside Sen. Turner as a national surrogate and Nevada State Co-chair.

"I met Amy Vilela at a moment in her life of profound pain and change. Since then, Amy has been one of the fiercest champions in the country for why we need Medicare for All," **Turner said**. "It is out of the natural order of things for a mother to have to bury her child, and not everyone has the strength or courage to do what Amy does. It is nothing short of miraculous that she uses what happened to her baby to lift people up and fight for justice everyday. Amy's leadership has already helped to transform progressive politics in Las Vegas and across Nevada, and her courage is exactly what we need more of in the Congress."

"For far too long, the working people across Las Vegas and across the country have been left behind and forgotten by our broken status quo. We need leaders who have the courage to fight for the transformative change and justice that we so badly need. Few know that better than my good friend and mentor, Senator Nina Turner, and I am honored to have her support for our campaign demanding more," **Vilela said**. "Our community, like so many others, is on the frontlines of a multitude of crises. From COVID to climate change, from jobs to housing, it is clear that status quo leadership is not working for the most vulnerable in our communities. We cannot stand idly by as our cities like ours rapidly become uninhabitable. We deserve more."

"Senator Turner has been with me on my justice journey from the very beginning. She helped teach me how to turn the pain and grief of loss into action and change. In 2020, with Nina by our side, we won a landslide victory for the movement here in Nevada," **Vilela continued**. "With Nina Turner's support again now, I have no doubt that our insurgent campaign is also on the righteous path to victory."

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Amy Vilela grew up in poverty, relying on programs like WIC and SNAP in order to make ends meet as a single-mother. She took classes at night while working multiple jobs to become the first in her family to earn a degree. She became a national advocate for Medicare for All after her daughter Shalynne died at the hands of our nation's profit-driven healthcare system. After working her way up to become a CFO, Amy has since retooled her professional experience to provide vital campaign services to other progressive candidates. In 2020, serving as a State Co-chair, Amy led the charge for Bernie Sanders' landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses.

Amy and her family first moved to Nevada when her husband, Major David Vilela, was transferred to Creech Air Force Base. If elected, she would be the first ever active duty military spouse to serve in Congress.

Amy Vilela and Nina Turner met in early 2017 following Shalynne's death at a national single-payer healthcare conference, where they bonded over their shared experience with loss, poverty and the struggle of working people in



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the United States, and they have remained close friends ever since. Turner endorsed and campaigned in Las Vegas for Vilela's 2018 campaign for congress. Most recently, Vilela served as treasurer of Turner's own 2021 special election campaign for Ohio's 11th congressional district.