



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



May 8, 2007, WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a continued effort to bring news and relevant information about our federal government back to his home district in Los Angeles, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Assistant to the Speaker of the House and the only congressional member from Southern California who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you “The Becerra Bulletin,” an e-newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discussion about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS IN THE IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

Congressman Becerra opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning, voting against authorization and all subsequent funding measures; he also joined an ample majority of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress in condemning the president’s escalation plan in February. In a continued effort to bring the war to a close, the House and Senate passed a supplemental funding bill that sets firm goals and benchmarks for the Iraqis, while dramatically increasing funding for our troops and returning veterans. In fact, Congress’ supplemental nearly triples the funding level requested by the president for military and veterans health services, so that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs can adequately treat our soldiers, while preventing an increase in fees, and address the problems at Walter Reed. The bill also provides funds for the VA to reduce its backlog and ensure that VA facilities are fully prepared to provide the best possible treatment to our returning veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here’s a look at what the Congress’ supplemental provides for our troops:

#### HEALTH CARE PRIORITY

#### DOLLARS PROVIDED

PTSD and Brain Injury Treatment & Research.....	\$900,000,000
Additional Treatment for Returning Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans.....	\$228,900,000
Enhancements to Mental Health Services.....	\$100,000,000
New Level I Polytrauma Center.....	\$39,400,000
Repairing Walter Reed Facilities.....	\$20,000,000
Veteran Centers & Readjustment Counseling.....	\$20,000,000
Substance Abuse Treatment Programs.....	\$20,000,000

#### TOTAL ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Department of Defense Health Care.....	\$3,300,000,000
Department of Veterans Affairs.....	\$1,700,000,000

**Total Additional Health Funding for our Troops and Veterans..\$5,000,000,000**

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### CONSTITUENTS DISCUSS IRAQ WAR WITH REP. BECERRA AT TOWN HALL MEETING

On Saturday, April 21, Congressman Becerra met with constituents at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Echo Park for an in-depth discussion on the war in Iraq. After giving a brief update on the recent actions taken by Congress to bring the war to a close and hold the Bush Administration accountable, Congressman Becerra opened up the floor for a direct discussion with the audience. Everyone who spoke voiced their frustration over the Administration’s policy of open-ended war, and their desire to bring our brave troops home as soon as possible. Other issues raised included war profiteering and the lack of adequate mental health services for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Congressman Becerra highlighted how Congress is now leading where the president has failed by passing supplemental funding legislation that supports the troops and boosts veteran benefits, while setting a clear and definitive timeline for redeployment of our troops out of Iraq.

### REP. BECERRA HOSTS CHAIRMAN FILNER AT VETERANS AFFAIRS FORUM

Veterans from World War II through the current war in Iraq turned out on April 2 to speak directly with the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Bob Filner (CA-51), at a public forum hosted by Rep. Becerra at American Legion Post 206 in Highland Park. The meeting, attended by veterans and concerned constituents, gave everyone an opportunity to discuss the state of health services for our veterans in the wake of the Walter Reed scandal, mental health services for those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), and equity for Filipino veterans of World War II who fought under the American flag, but were denied benefits provided to other veterans. Reps. Becerra and Filner also highlighted the dramatic increases in funding for veteran services in the Iraq supplemental funding legislation.

**Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**

**Assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Oversight, Subcommittee on Health & Subcommittee on Social Security  
Committee on Budget



DISTRICT OFFICE: 1910 Sunset Blvd., #560, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213.483.1425  
CAPITOL OFFICE: 1119 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202.225.6235

[becerra.house.gov](http://becerra.house.gov)

