

# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WASHINGTON TO LOS ANGELES

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), the only Congressional member from Southern California who is on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you, "The Becerra Bulletin," a regular newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discourse about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### MEDICARE MATTERS

Congressman Becerra will be speaking at the Medicare Road Show, sponsored by Families USA and the Alliance for Retired Americans, this Friday, April 23, at the Davidson Conference Center on the University of Southern California Campus. The event, which begins at 10 a.m., aims to educate attendees about the intricacies and shortcomings of the recent Medicare bill that passed last November. The event is open to the general public.

And on the subject of Medicare, here's what we know:

- \$535,000,000,000 = Cost of the new Medicare law over 10 years, much of which will be paid to private insurance companies, rather than be directly utilized for beneficiaries (The White House originally promised Congress that the bill would cost under \$400 Billion).
- \$1,100 = What a Medicare recipient will pay out of pocket for the first \$2,000 in coverage under the new law.
- \$4,000 = What a Medicare recipient will pay out of pocket for the first \$5,000 in coverage under the new law.
- \$30 = Annual cost of the new Medicare prescription drug discount cards (available this May).
- 15 to 20% = Average discount afforded to prescription drug discount card holders.
- \$80,000,000 = Amount the administration plans to spend this year on an advertising campaign to promote Medicare.
- \$59,000,000 = Amount the FDA would need to set up a national program to reimport drugs from Canada, giving seniors access to lower cost FDA-drugs and potentially saving them hundreds of millions of dollars annually. This program was not included in the new Medicare law.

## SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON

### 31ST DISTRICT RESIDENT TAKES PART IN NEXT GENERATION SUMMIT ON CAPITOL HILL

More than 250 students and young leaders from 45 states and territories attended the first "Next Generation Democratic Summit" this past Wednesday, April 21 on Capitol Hill. The daylong summit was chaired by Democratic Leaders Nancy Pelosi and Tom Daschle and co-chaired by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. The aim of the summit was to discuss ways to increase young Americans' involvement in their communities and in public service. Congressman Becerra invited Henry Troung, 20, a Chinatown resident of the 31st Congressional District and junior at U.C. Berkeley majoring in Political Science to participate. "Right now, we're at a critical time in our nation's history when tuition's going up and Pell grants and being cut," Troung said. "Young Americans have a worthwhile opinion and this summit presented a great opportunity to have Members of Congress listen to us speak candidly about these important issues and discuss new and innovative ideas on how to solve them."

## SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

### REP. BECERRA HELPS SECURE \$100K FOR SIPA

Representative Xavier Becerra paid a visit to the headquarters of the nonprofit organization, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Tuesday, April 6, to enjoy a snack with the organization's staff, board members and approximately 20 children in its visual arts program. While at this merienda (the Pilipino tradition of a late afternoon snack), Rep. Becerra announced that SIPA will receive a federal grant of \$100,000, an appropriation that the congressman fought hard to have included in the federal budget for fiscal year 2004. Established in 1972, SIPA is a nonprofit, community-based organization that strives to enhance the quality of life for Pilipino Americans by providing first-rate, culturally appropriate programs for children, families, and senior citizens. Located in Historic Filipinotown, SIPA serves one of the most underserved, densely populated high-crime areas of Los Angeles. Over the course of 30 years, SIPA has been responsible for providing educational, recreational, and health-related services to this at-risk community.

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 Committee on Ways and Means  
 Subcommittee on Trade & Subcommittee on Social Security

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