



THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



February 5, 2009, 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 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

BLEAK ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT CALLS FOR REINVESTMENT IN AMERICA

2008 was an abysmal year for the American economy, and working families are now in the midst of a crisis unlike any we have seen in a generation. In fact, the economy lost over 2.6 million jobs last year—more than any year since World War II. On top of that, nearly 1 million jobs were lost in the last two months alone. Consumer spending is down and confidence is at an all-time low. In light of this dire economic situation, Congress is working with President Barack Obama to enact an American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan to jumpstart the economy and lay the foundation for long term growth by investing in infrastructure, clean energy, education and health care. Economic analysts from across the ideological spectrum agree that this plan will create or save 3 to 4 million jobs over the next two years, while making long overdue investments in our future prosperity. Here, by the numbers, is a brief overview of just some of the investments that will be made in California and the country at large under the House-passed version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan:

	Highways & Bridges	Clean Water	Infrastructure	State Fiscal Stabilization
California	\$2,796,972,002	\$415,157,589	\$4,457,290,824	\$7,854,800,000
United States	\$29,350,000,000	\$5,731,845,749	\$43,000,345,749	\$79,000,000,000

	Title I Education Funding	Renovate Educational Facilities	Head Start
California	\$1,591,028,000	\$2,430,042,000	\$82,495,044
United States	\$13,000,000,000	\$20,000,000,000	\$2,100,000,000

On January 30, Rep. Becerra held a press conference at John Adams Middle School to highlight the impact the recovery package will have locally in Los Angeles. Visit the Becerra Podcast section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov> to hear his remarks.

SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESIDENT SIGNS EXTENSION OF HEALTH COVERAGE TO MILLIONS OF CHILDREN INTO LAW

On February 4 President Barack Obama signed H.R. 2, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization Act to extend coverage to 11 million children into law. "Change has finally come for the families of 11 million children in America who will now have access to quality, affordable healthcare," Rep. Becerra said. "The enactment of this essential expansion of children's health coverage couldn't have come at a more pressing time for America's working families. Not only is this the right thing to do, it is a smart thing to do to stimulate the economy by freeing family budgets of the burden of healthcare bills." H.R. 2 is based on legislation that passed the House and Senate twice with overwhelming bipartisan support in the previous 110th Congress and vetoed by President Bush both times. It preserves coverage for 7 million children currently covered by SCHIP and extends coverage to 4 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in SCHIP or Medicaid. The bill is fully paid-for by a 61 cent increase in the tobacco tax. The bill includes language from the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA), giving states the option of covering legal immigrant children who have been in the country for fewer than five years. The current five-year wait period puts these children at risk of suffering from undetected diseases that could turn into costly chronic conditions if gone untreated.

BECERRA ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

On November 18, 2008, Congressman Becerra was elected Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives for the 111th Congress, winning 175 votes out of 242 cast. "I am honored by the confidence my colleagues have placed in me to serve as Vice Chair of our talented and diverse Democratic Caucus. Leadership means service, and now is the time to deliver for those we serve," Rep. Becerra said after the vote.

Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California

Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus

Committee on Ways and Means

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

Committee on Budget



DISTRICT OFFICE: 1910 Sunset Blvd., #810, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213.483.1425
CAPITOL OFFICE: 1119 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202.225.6235

becerra.house.gov

