



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



FEBRUARY 7, 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

### LOOKING BACK ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET LEGACY

As the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress begins the work of crafting a budget for the 2008 fiscal year, it faces a financial challenge of historic proportions. When President Bush took office in 2001, he inherited a federal budget with record surpluses, which he could have used to pay down the national debt, shore up Social Security and Medicare, and ensure sufficient funds to invest in our national priorities. Instead, Republicans squandered the surplus on tax cuts for the wealthy, and an costly war in Iraq. Looking back on the Republican budget legacy, here’s what we know about where we were and where we are:

#### BIG PICTURE CHANGES

	2001	2007
Projected 10 Year Surplus/Deficit.....	\$5,600,000,000,000 (surplus)....	-\$3,000,000,000,000 (debt)
Public Debt Limit Approved by President Bush.....	\$6,300,000,000,000.....	\$9,000,000,000,000
U.S. Global Economic Competitiveness Ranking.....	#1 Most Competitive.....	#6 Most Competitive
Cost of War in Iraq.....	\$0.....	\$379,000,000,000

#### NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Average Annual Cost of Attending 4-Year College.....	\$9,100.....	\$12,200
Percentage of College Costs Covered by Pell Grants.....	42 percent.....	30 percent
Americans Without Healthcare.....	39,000,000.....	46,000,000
Number of Unemployed Workers.....	6,000,000.....	7,000,000

## SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

### CONGRESSMAN BECERRA MEETS WITH NEW UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

The new Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, met with Congressman Becerra, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and other members of House Leadership on January 16 to discuss the crises in Darfur and the Middle East, and U.N. institutional reform. Rep. Becerra also urged the secretary general not to neglect another important region of the world: Latin America. Recent developments in Latin America and prospects for strengthening democracies in the region deserve the attention of the U.N. to prevent progress toward democratic institutions falling victim to inattention and other priorities. “The meeting with the secretary general was certainly time well spent in furthering the U.S.-U.N. partnership,” Rep. Becerra said.

### CONGRESSMAN BECERRA DELIVERS THE HISPANIC STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Immediately following President Bush’s State of the Union Address on the night of January 23, Congressman Becerra delivered the Hispanic State of the Union Address. Rep. Becerra’s speech outlined the promise of the new Democratic Congress, saying that “the era of ‘more of the same’ has passed” and highlighted plans for comprehensive immigration reform, and redeploying troops out of Iraq. To watch his speech in its entirety or to read a translation of it, please visit Becerra.House.gov.

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### COFFEE WITH YOUR CONGRESSMAN AT ALEXANDRIA ELEMENTARY

On December 2, Congressman Becerra met with dozens of constituents at Alexandria Elementary School in East Hollywood for coffee and conversation. Those in attendance quizzed Rep. Becerra about the Democratic agenda for the new Congress, the status of immigration reform, as well as his views on trade and tax policy and the war in Iraq. Following the discussion, Rep. Becerra announced the acquisition of federal funds for the Hollywood Beautification Team, one of the 31<sup>st</sup> District’s many outstanding community-based organizations. HBT hires at-risk youth and supervises community improvement services including graffiti abatement, tree planting, and neighborhood clean-up projects. Participants gain vocational skills, environmental education, and a greater sense of belonging by contributing to their communities.

**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



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