



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



November 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 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

### 2007: A YEAR OF PROGRESS UNDER THE NEW DIRECTION CONGRESS

A year ago today you and countless others just like you asked for change by voting for new leadership and a new direction in congress. After six years of reckless deficit spending, misplaced priorities, and blind allegiance to the Bush Administration's Iraq policy, the new Democratic leadership set out to reverse the failures of the previous congresses and honor the hopes and aspirations of the American people. Over the course of the year, the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress has passed a host of measures with ample bipartisan support to reign in spending, restore accountability in government, and make a number of long overdue investments in the security and future of America. The House of Representatives on day one reinstated "pay-as-you-go" budget rules that now prohibit new deficit spending, and on day two enacted the toughest ethics rules in history to break the link between lobbyists and legislation. In just the first two weeks the House passed legislation to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations, increase the minimum wage for the first time in a decade, invest in stem cell research, allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors, cut student interest rates in half, end subsidies for big oil, and invest in renewable energy. That is more progress in two weeks than the previous congress made in two years. In fact, this congress has taken nearly twice as many votes in its first session than did the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress during the same period.



This past Thursday, November 1, Congressman Becerra (middle) joined his Democratic colleagues on the west front steps of the Capitol for an event to highlight the legislative successes the House of Representatives achieved in its first year.

The New Direction Congress continues to make progress and build on an already impressive list of accomplishments. Here's a look at key pieces of legislation passed by the House of Representatives this year that make major investments in America's future:

#### College Cost Reduction Act of 2007

Students who benefit from interest rate reduction .....	6,800,000
Students who benefit from Pell Grant increase .....	6,100,000
Amount saved by average student borrower .....	\$4,400
Increase in maximum Pell Grant scholarship .....	\$500
Amount of investment paid for by deficit spending .....	\$0

#### Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007

Children of working families currently insured by SCHIP .....	6,600,000
Additional children covered by this legislation .....	4,000,000
Total number of children covered if not for the president's veto .....	10,000,000
Amount of investment paid for by deficit spending .....	\$0

#### U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007

Veterans benefiting from largest increase in VA funding in history .....	5,800,000
Funding for PTSD and brain injury treatment .....	900,000,000
Funding to repair Walter Reed facilities .....	\$20,000,000
Total additional health funding for troops and veterans .....	\$5,000,000,000
Amount of investment paid for by deficit spending .....	\$0

#### The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007

Number of hardworking Americans receiving a raise of \$4,000 a year.....	13,000,000
Amount of investment paid for by deficit spending .....	\$0

### Democratic Pay-As-You-Go Budget for 2008

Projected budget surplus  
by the year 2012,  
thanks to PAYGO discipline:  
**\$153,000,000,000**

**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**

