



THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



October 29, 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

WHAT WE COULD DO EVERY DAY, IF WE ENDED THE WAR IN IRAQ

In June the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a detailed report titled “The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11.” The report estimates that by next year, the United States will have spent half a trillion dollars in Iraq since 2003. When you break that down, we are spending about \$330 million every single day in Iraq. That’s \$2.3 billion every week, \$9.2 billion every month, and \$110 billion every year. And there is no end in sight to the civil war that continues to plague the country since President Bush declared “Mission Accomplished” in May 2003. Many people are beginning to ask: what could we do with the billions of dollars we are spending in Iraq if we invested them here at home? Here is a short list of investments we could make daily with the \$330 million we spend **every single day** on the war in Iraq:

- Provide.....**270,000 more children** with health care coverage for a year.
- Enroll.....**46,000 more children** in Head Start for a year.
- Deploy.....**1,700 additional border patrol agents** for a year.
- Support.....**275 new research grants** through the National Institutes of Health.
- Provide.....**45,000 additional veterans** with health care for a year.
- Provide.....**62,000 more children** with a year of day care while their parents work.
- Give.....**25,000,000 low-income children** a nutritious snack every day next summer.
- Help.....**50,000 families** obtain safe, affordable housing.

SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

REP. BECERRA DELIVERS NATIONAL HISPANIC RADIO ADDRESS ON SCHIP VOTE

On October 20, two days following a narrowly defeated attempt in the House of Representatives to override the president’s veto of the SCHIP bill that would have provided health insurance to 10 million children, Rep. Becerra delivered the national Democratic Hispanic radio address to talk about the program and the president’s veto. In his address, which was broadcast on a host of national Spanish language radio stations, Rep. Becerra drew a contrast between the priorities of the president and the needs of working families. “To cover 10 million children for one year will cost us the same as what President Bush spends in 37 days on the war in Iraq. In fact, the administration has lost track of more money – \$9 billion sent to Iraq for reconstruction – than it costs to fund the children’s health insurance program for a full year,” Rep. Becerra said. The bill, which enjoys the support of over 72 percent of the American people and a broad bipartisan majority in Congress, was vetoed by the president September 28. On October 18 the House voted 273 to 156 in favor of overriding the veto, falling barely short of the two thirds majority needed. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA-8) and Rep. Becerra are committed to passing a law that will give 10 million children health care and will not stop until that law is signed by the president.

BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING UNVEILS TRUE COST OF WAR

At an October 24 hearing of the Budget Committee, of which Rep. Becerra is a member, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Dr. Peter Orszak, predicted that the total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could reach \$2.4 trillion by 2017. Nearly 30 percent of that cost comes from servicing the interest on war-related debt. “It is disheartening to see billions of dollars wasted on servicing the debt for an ill-conceived and horribly mismanaged war, when we have so many needs here at home. For half the cost of servicing the war debt every year we could provide health insurance to 10 million children of working families,” Rep. Becerra said shortly following the hearing.

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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