



THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



February 27, 2008, 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

ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES — TIMELY, TARGETED, AND TEMPORARY

America's working families are facing a wave of economic insecurity as unemployment increases along with the cost of health insurance, gasoline, groceries and other basic necessities. Over 7.6 million people are now unemployed, 1.3 million of whom have been out of work for more than 26 weeks. In January alone a net 17,000 jobs were lost nationwide. Our struggling economy requires immediate action to soften the blow to working families and jump-start economic activity. Congressman Becerra has been working with fellow members of congressional leadership and his colleagues on the Ways and Means and Budget committees to craft a bipartisan stimulus package and explore further measures to protect the economically vulnerable and get the American economy back on track.

The House of Representatives took the first step toward this goal January 29 by passing the Recovery Rebate and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act (H.R. 5140) by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The bill was signed into law by the president February 13. This law adheres to the “timely, targeted, and temporary” principles advocated by Democrats and focuses on helping working families through these difficult times. Here are some of the most important specifics on who will benefit from this good piece of legislation:

\$50,000,000,000 in tax relief for...

- **Over 100,000,000** taxpaying families
 - **\$1,200** per married couple
 - **\$600** per individual
 - **\$300** extra for every child

\$32,000,000,000 in relief for...

- **Over 35,000,000** working families who make too little to pay income taxes
 - **\$600** per married couple
 - **\$300** per individual
 - **\$300** extra for every child

28,000,000 additional seniors and disabled veterans will receive recovery rebates.

\$44,000,000,000 investment in small businesses

- **\$125,000 to \$250,000** tax write-off for capital investments
- **\$800,000** write-off for purchase of new equipment

SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

BECERRA-AUTHORED PROVISION WILL PROTECT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT MLK HOSPITAL

The August 15 closure of MLK-Harbor Hospital was a major blow to residents of South Los Angeles, resulting in a significant number of modest-income patients in Los Angeles County having no access to a nearby hospital. In an effort to bring hospital services back to the area, Rep. Becerra successfully fought to include a provision that protects the Medicare-funded graduate medical education residency positions allotted to MLK-Harbor into the spending bill for fiscal year 2008 signed into law by President Bush. This will ensure that any future occupant of the facility will retain them once they took over the hospital, an important incentive for health care providers interested in occupying MLK-Harbor.

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 the Budget



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