

# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WASHINGTON TO LOS ANGELES

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), the only congressional member from Southern California who is on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you “The Becerra Bulletin,” a newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discourse about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### THE PRESIDENT'S FY07 BUDGET

This past February saw the annual tradition of the president submitting his budget proposal to Congress, who will now spend the better part of the year amending and adjusting it prior to approving it before the new fiscal year begins October 1.

Here is what we know about the president's budget:

- Total expenditures: \$2,770,000,000,000
- Total revenues (taxes and other income sources): \$2,416,000,000,000
- Total deficit: \$354,000,000,000.
- It spends every single dollar of the \$2.5 trillion the Social Security trust fund will bring in over the next 10 years.
- It seeks to make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent, costing \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years.
- It will cut Medicare by nearly \$36 billion over the next five years.
- Cloaked within its pages remain plans and funding mechanisms to privatize Social Security, which would cost over three quarters of a trillion dollars over the next 10 years.
- It provides \$15.4 billion less for education than promised by the No Child Left Behind Act – denying 3.7 million children promised help with reading and math.
- It terminates all port security grant programs, leaving little to no additional federal dollars to help protect our nation's seaports.
- It cuts \$695 million from job training programs – at a time when wages and job growth are both stagnant.

When thinking about the president's budget, two phrases come to mind: “fiscally reckless” and “morally irresponsible.”

## SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

### MERCADO LA PALOMA CELEBRATES IN STYLE

Representative Xavier Becerra took part in Mercado La Paloma's five year anniversary celebration on February 27 by announcing a \$125,000 federal appropriations grant for fiscal year 2006. Mercado La Paloma, the vision of Esperanza Housing Corporation, brings together 23 diverse private and nonprofit vendors that provide economic, health, social and cultural resources to a formerly underserved industrial neighborhood. This once vacant two-story garment warehouse is today a vibrant marketplace and community center. Not only has the Mercado made dreams a reality by providing 16 first-time entrepreneurs the space, technical and financial assistance to open their own businesses, but the Mercado also continues to generate new opportunities for this community through its rotating art exhibits, festivals, lectures, health workshops and activities for youth.

### COFFEE WITH YOUR CONGRESSMAN

This February, over 100 residents from Pico Union had coffee with Rep. Becerra. In an effort to reach the over 640,000 constituents that reside in the 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, Rep. Becerra hosts the “Coffee with your Congressman” series several times per year in various locations throughout Los Angeles. Each “Coffee” provides residents and Rep. Becerra the opportunity to exchange ideas on national issues such as homeland security, the war in Iraq, the federal budget, social security and Medicare. “There is no better way for me to serve you best in Congress than for us to meet face-to-face,” Rep. Becerra said.

For more information, please contact Steve Haro, 202.225.6235.



**Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**  
 Committee on Ways and Means  
 Subcommittee on Human Resources & Subcommittee on Social Security

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