



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



JUNE 12, 2006, 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,” 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

### DEFICITS MATTER ... SOCIAL SECURITY'S BOTTOM LINE CONTINUES TO BE COMPROMISED

“Second, all Social Security funds in the federal surplus must stay where they belong – dedicated to Social Security. In my economic plan, more than \$2 trillion of the federal surplus is locked away for Social Security. For years, politicians in both parties have dipped into the trust fund to pay for more spending. And I will stop it.”

– Candidate George W. Bush, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, May 15, 2000

As a presidential candidate, George W. Bush criticized politicians from both parties for using Social Security surplus dollars to help cover budget deficits. But what he said on the campaign trail is markedly different than what he is doing as president. Every year that he has been in office, he has spent every dollar of the Social Security surplus to curb runaway budget deficits.

The results are disheartening:

	Budget deficit prior to tapping Social Security surplus dollars (a.k.a. “On budget deficit”):	Social Security surplus dollars spent for non-Social Security purposes:	Budget deficit after tapping Social Security surplus dollars (a.k.a. “Total deficit”):
2001	\$32,400,000,000	\$95,800,000,000	+\$128,200,000,000
2002	\$317,400,000,000	\$159,600,000,000	\$157,800,000,000
2003	\$538,400,000,000	\$160,800,000,000	\$377,600,000,000
2004	\$568,000,000,000	\$155,300,000,000	\$412,700,000,000
2005	\$493,600,000,000	\$175,300,000,000	\$318,300,000,000
2006	\$551,000,000,000	\$180,000,000,000	\$371,000,000,000

**TOTAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS DOLLARS SPENT BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION:  
\$926,800,000,000**

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### SENATOR JOHN KERRY VISITS THE 31<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

As a way to better understand the implications of the various immigration proposals currently before Congress, Congressman Becerra hosted Senator John Kerry in the 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District this past April 10. Congressman Becerra and Senator Kerry toured three sites in Los Angeles and met with individuals who shared their personal experiences as immigrants and immigration advocates in Los Angeles. Congressman Becerra and Senator Kerry started their day at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, where 35 hotel workers shared their personal experiences. Congressman Becerra and Senator Kerry were then joined by community leaders and elected officials at Clinica Monseñor Romero, where they learned of the challenges in health services to the immigrant community. For their last stop, Congressman Becerra and Senator Kerry jointly hosted a question and answer session with students at South Los Angeles Area High School #1. As Congress continues to work on comprehensive immigration reform, Rep. Becerra believes it is important that stakeholders in this debate have the opportunity to see and meet the community they will impact.

### HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS REMEMBER THEIR HERITAGE

Congressman Becerra hosted his 14th annual 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Art Competition for high school students at the Southwest Museum this past April 22. Students from seven high schools submitted entries that reflected this year’s theme, “Remembering Our Heritage.” The first and second place winners were Salma Vir Banks and Lori Wong from Ribet Academy and the third place winner was Diana Ramirez from Franklin High School. As the top winner, Salma Vir Banks will join Rep. Becerra in Washington, D.C., for a national ribbon cutting ceremony on Capitol Hill June 28. Her winning piece will hang in the Capitol building for one year. All three students will be recognized July 5 at Dodger Stadium. As the author of H.R. 2134, legislation that would establish a commission to study the potential creation of a national museum focused on Latino art, history and culture, Rep. Becerra appreciates the importance of preserving and remembering the cultural diversity of our nation.

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



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