



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



June 26, 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 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

### HUNGER IN AMERICA: FOOD SECURITY IN THE FARM BILL

The Farm Bill, previously passed in 2002 and up for renewal this year, is a major piece of legislation that reaches far beyond our rural communities to impact each one of us. Principally, the Farm Bill sets our national policy on agricultural production, including crop subsidies, safety guidelines, and rural development. The nutrition title of the legislation provides food stamp assistance to millions of American families who cannot consistently afford to put three square meals on the table. The food stamp program stands as a bulwark against hunger for millions of Americans, yet the benefit has not been adjusted for inflation since 1996, leaving our poorest families to live off of about \$3 a day. This allows for little more than high sodium, high fat junk foods, which ultimately can lead to obesity and diabetes. Furthermore, current regulations penalize the working poor by eliminating food stamp benefits when families save, or acquire more than \$2,000 in assets. Rep. Becerra is working to enhance the nutrition title of the 2007 Farm Bill and increase the food stamp benefit. Here’s a look at how consumer prices have increased since 1996, the last time the food stamp benefit was increased:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>1996 COST</u>	<u>2007 COST</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Milk, gallon.....	\$1.65.....	\$3.14.....	\$1.49 (90%)
Bread, loaf.....	\$0.86.....	\$1.19.....	\$0.33 (38%)
Chicken, pound.....	\$0.95.....	\$1.12.....	\$0.17 (18%)
Eggs, dozen.....	\$1.02.....	\$1.50.....	\$0.48 (47%)
Apples, pound.....	\$0.92.....	\$1.11.....	\$0.19 (21%)
Orange Juice, 12 oz.....	\$1.70.....	\$2.47.....	\$0.77 (45%)
Gas, gallon.....	\$1.23.....	\$3.13.....	\$1.90 (154%)
Utility gas, 100 therms.....	\$65.44.....	\$128.87.....	\$63.43 (96%)
Electricity, 500 kwz.....	\$49.23.....	\$59.78.....	\$10.55 (21%)
AVERAGE.....			(59%)
<b>Food Stamps, per day.....</b>	<b>\$3.00.....</b>	<b>\$3.00.....</b>	<b>\$0.00 (0%)</b>

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### REP. BECERRA HONORS FALLEN SOLDIERS ON MEMORIAL DAY

Congressman Becerra joined American Legion Post 206, AMVETS Post 1994, and the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council in honoring our nation’s fallen soldiers at a May 28 Memorial Day celebration at the Highland Park Veterans Memorial. The Franklin High School Junior ROTC performed color guard duties for the event. Rep. Becerra remarked on the importance of taking time to honor those who have laid down their lives to protect our freedoms as we reflect with family and friends during this time of war. A traditional gun salute and the playing of “Taps” closed the ceremony.

## SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

### GUN MICROSTAMPING BRIEFING & DEMONSTRATION ARRANGED BY REP. BECERRA

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, and shortly following the second anniversary of the conviction of the “Beltway Snipers,” Rep. Becerra arranged for a demonstration of the crime solving capabilities of gun microstamping technology. The event, which took place in the Rayburn House Office Building firing range on Friday, May 18, gave Todd Lizotte, the creator of microstamping technology, an opportunity to show how the system works to connect the dots for investigators of gun crimes. Internal surfaces of the gun etch tiny characters on to every fired bullet cartridge allowing law enforcement to identify the make, model and serial number of the gun from which it was fired. A single microstamped cartridge recovered at the scene of a crime can lead police to the gun – and the criminal that fired it. Rep. Becerra is crafting legislation with Senator Ted Kennedy (MA) that would require gun manufacturers to implement the potentially life saving technology. The California Assembly passed similar legislation, A.B. 1471, “The Crime Gun Identification Act,” May 29.

**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](http://becerra.house.gov)

