



THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



April 11, 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

FIVE YEARS OF WAR IN IRAQ: THE COST TO OUR TROOPS, OUR ECONOMY AND OUR COUNTRY

On March 19 our country passed a grim milestone as the war in Iraq entered its sixth year. This war has now lasted longer than the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. And there is no end in sight. Five years of war in Iraq has cost our country too much in terms of lives lost, resources depleted and opportunities squandered. "Over 4,000 brave American soldiers killed, tens of thousands wounded, hundreds of billions of dollars borrowed from future generations, a strained military and diminished standing in the world is the price our nation has paid so far," Rep. Becerra said on the fifth anniversary of the start of the war. "And one must wonder if we are truly safer now than we were five years and one day ago." In 2002, Rep. Becerra cast his vote against authorizing war in Iraq, and continues to work toward ending our military involvement there. "The day that we end this war, bring our troops home, and dedicate ourselves to addressing our most pressing challenges, cannot come soon enough," Rep. Becerra said. Here are the facts about the cost of the war in Iraq to our troops, our economy and our country:

COST TO TAXPAYERS EVERY...

Second.....	\$3,919
Minute.....	\$235,160
Hour.....	\$14,109,589
Day.....	\$338,630,137
Week.....	\$2,400,000,000
Month.....	\$10,300,000,000
Year.....	\$123,600,000,000

COST TO OUR TROOPS

Killed.....	4,029
Wounded.....	29,676
Total troops deployed since 2001.....	1,700,000
Troops deployed more than once.....	592,000
Troops deployed in Iraq indefinitely.....	140,000
Treated at veterans health facilities.....	260,000
Diagnosed with mental health conditions.....	100,000

COST TO THE ECONOMY

Minimum macro-economic impact.....	\$1,900,000,000,000
Projected interest on war debt.....	\$720,000,000,000
CBO projected total budgetary cost.....	\$2,400,000,000,000

SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

REP. BECERRA VOTES FOR HOUSE FISA BILL THAT RESPECTS THE RULE OF LAW

Friday, March 14, the House of Representatives passed the FISA Amendments Act (H.R. 3773), following a rare secret session requested by some Republicans the night before. Rep. Becerra voted for the bill. "We do not have to compromise our laws, values and constitution in order to protect our country," Rep. Becerra said following the secret session. "This well-constructed FISA upgrade will give those charged with protecting America and Americans the tools they need to do their jobs thoroughly, competently and quickly." The House-passed bill requires the FISA court to approve procedures to ensure that Americans are not targeted and that their inadvertently intercepted communications are not disseminated, requires a court order based on probable cause to conduct surveillance on Americans, and grants prospective liability protection for telecommunications companies that provide lawful assistance to the government. The bill also strongly enhances oversight of the administration's surveillance activities.

SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

LOCAL & NATIONAL LEADERS, LAW ENFORCERS ENDORSE BECERRA-AUTHORED MICROSTAMPING LEGISLATION

The National Crime Gun Identification Act, legislation authored by Rep. Becerra and Sen. Kennedy (MA) to help investigators of gun crimes by requiring the use of microstamping technology got a big boost on March 18 when it received the endorsement of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton and the Los Angeles City Council at a press conference in Los Angeles. Rep. Becerra thanked them for their support and briefly walked through what his legislation accomplishes and the technology it seeks to proliferate. Visit "Becerra Broadcasts" at <http://becerra.house.gov> to see highlights from that press conference.

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