



# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles



OCTOBER 16, 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

### DOMESTIC COSTS OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

"Stay the course," has become President Bush's guiding principle for handling the debacle in Iraq. Tragically, the course set by the administration has cost our nation dearly in lives, taxpayer dollars, American influence worldwide, and opportunities here at home. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has pegged the total cost of the Iraq war at nearly \$300 billion, and we are spending between \$8 billion and \$9 billion each and every month that we stay there. Here are a few examples of investments in America we could have made were it not for the cost of Iraq:

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Domestic Opportunity</u>
\$1 billion (4 days).....	Ensure that all passenger airplane cargo is screened for explosives
\$1.4 billion (6 days).....	Fund 6,000 additional border patrol agents
\$4 billion (15 days).....	Vaccinate every child in the United States against all serious childhood diseases
\$5.4 billion (20 days).....	Protect Americans from an attack similar to the London train bombing
\$6.4 billion (24 days).....	Fund all remaining port security needs estimated by the Coast Guard
\$16 billion (2 months).....	Hire 460,000 teachers across America, lowering average class size to 18 students
\$17 billion (just over 2 months).....	Provide basic health insurance to every child in the United States
\$18 billion (just over 2 months).....	Pay a year's tuition/fees at a 4-year public university for 3 million high school seniors
\$32 billion (about 4 months).....	Invest in energy research and development to the level of the Carter Administration
\$43 billion (just over 5 months).....	Provide a 20 percent pay raise to 3 million public school teachers
\$45 billion (about 5 1/2 months).....	Eliminate all Federal income taxes for people making \$50,000 a year or less

## SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

### ¡SI SE PUEDE! REP. BECERRA'S LATINO MUSEUM BILL PASSES IN THE HOUSE

On Wednesday, September 27, the House of Representatives passed by unanimous voice vote Rep. Becerra's bill H.R. 2134, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of American Latino Heritage Act. The passage of this bill in the House represents a major step toward realizing Rep. Becerra's vision of a national museum focused on American Latino art, history and culture in our nation's capital. H.R. 2134 sets up a 23 member commission charged with producing a national conference to bring stakeholders, experts, policymakers and other interested parties together to discuss the museum's viability; a fundraising plan to create an extensive public-private partnership; and a report to Congress detailing a recommended plan of action on how to move forward with taking the museum from concept to reality. Given that the Senate version of Rep. Becerra's bill has the support of a quarter of the body's senators, Rep. Becerra remains optimistic that this historic piece of legislation will be signed into law by the end of this legislative year.

## SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

### ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

From soccer leagues to neighborhood beautification teams, California's 31st District is blessed with a multitude of nonprofit organizations dedicated to engaging our youth. These organizations are vital components of the neighborhoods they serve, offering guidance, personal enrichment and fun in a safe environment to youth in underserved areas. Rep. Becerra is proud to announce that he has secured federal funds for seven outstanding youth-oriented organizations in the district, including the Anahuak Youth Sports Association, the P.F. Bresee Foundation, the Hollywood Beautification Team, the South Los Angeles Beautification Team, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Exodus Urban Academy and Ramona Hall Community Center. Federal dollars will be used to provide sporting and art equipment, as well as computers to these important organizations.

**Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Human Resources & Subcommittee on Social Security



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