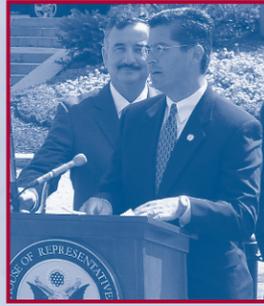


October 2003 – Introduced H.R. 3292: The Commission to Establish the National Museum of the American Latino Act of 2003

The end of Hispanic Heritage Month marked the beginning of a new mission and worthy goal. On October 15 of this year, I introduced H.R. 3292, a bipartisan bill that, if signed into law, would lead to the establishment of the National Museum of the American Latino. Americans of Latino ancestry have influenced and enriched this country since our nation's founding, and continue to make significant contributions in academia, the arts and sciences, and in popular culture. If built, this could be the 17th institution in the diverse, expansive universe of Smithsonian museums.



Congressman Becerra discusses the National Museum of the American Latino at a press conference in front of the Smithsonian Institution in September.

October 2003 – H.R. 3289: Defense and Reconstruction Funding for Iraq and Afghanistan

I voted against the President's \$87 billion spending package for Iraq and Afghanistan. When the President led our military into Iraq, we took on the burden of a dubiously justified preemptive war and placed that burden on the shoulders of our young men and women in uniform to carry virtually alone. And now, American taxpayers are forced to take on the burden, almost exclusively, of rebuilding an entire nation, while our own nation finds its schools in disrepair, Medicare and Social Security Trust Fund dollars used for other purposes, and our homeland security and first responders underfunded. I would support whatever it takes to bring these young men and women home as quickly as possible, and to ensure their success and safety in their mission while they are away. However, this \$87 billion grant – unpaid for and, consequently, 100 percent deficit spending piled on top of an existing \$370 billion deficit – will place the cost of rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan squarely on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren and those of our soldiers, too many of whom have already made the ultimate sacrifice. (To read my remarks before the House, log on to my web site at www.house.gov/becerra.)

November 2003 – Introduced The Brownfield Revitalization Act of 2003

This past summer, I introduced H.R. 2815, "The Brownfields Remediation Act of 2003," a bill that would create a permanent tax incentive for companies who clean up and redevelop brownfields. Recently, I introduced a companion bill called "The Brownfield Revitalization Act of 2003." This legislation would increase the amount of private capital available to revitalize contaminated properties, accelerating the return of these brownfield sites to productive use – creating jobs, stimulating the economy and cleaning up the environment.

How to Contact Congressman Becerra

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Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 483-1425.

FORUM ATTENDEES LEARN WHY MEDICARE MATTERS

As a member of the House Committee responsible for the writing of our nation's Medicare laws, I have worked hard to protect and improve the program, including adding a prescription drug benefit. But not all proposed "reforms" are supported by seniors and my constituents. So in August, I brought the Medicare debate home to Los Angeles at a forum at Occidental College. My Northern California colleague, Rep. Pete Stark, the Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, and a host of scholars, advocates, experts and beneficiaries debated the merits of the various proposals and discussed the future of our nation's Medicare system. A terrific crowd, ranging from students to seniors, came to take part in this informative discussion. **Bottom line: Don't privatize Medicare!**



CAPTAIN CARY ADAMS: SERVING PROUDLY, SAFELY HOME

I had the distinct pleasure in October of meeting again with Army Captain Cary Adams, who fought bravely as he led the Third Infantry Division, Second Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Adams' infantry unit was one of the first to reach Baghdad. In 1995, I nominated Cary, a standout Eagle Rock High School student, for admittance to the United States Military Academy at West Point. For over eight years now, Capt. Adams has served his country with honor and incredible selflessness. **Thank you for your service and sacrifice Captain Adams!**



Captain Cary Adams, Congressman Becerra's 1995 nominee to West Point, presents the congressman with a California flag that accompanied him into Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"COFFEE" COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU

My office received numerous calls this summer inquiring about my yearly town hall series that usually occurs every August. As some of you already know, and others will soon find out, I made a decision earlier this year to change our town hall format in a way that allows for more meetings, at more convenient times for you and at more accessible locations. By hosting "Coffee with Your Congressman" gatherings in neighborhoods across the district, I am able to hear more directly from you. There have already been meetings in Highland Park, South Los Angeles, Pico-Union and Eagle Rock. These meetings will occur year-round in neighborhoods all throughout the 31st District. **Look out for your invitation in the mail!** And always know that this office is here to serve you, so never hesitate to call (213) 483-1425 if you need any help with federal agencies.



**Congressman
Xavier Becerra**

**MAKING
AMERICA'S
FAMILIES
STRONGER**

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



Xavier Becerra
M.C.
PRSRT STD



December 1, 2003

Dear Friends:

Around this time of the year, we tend to engage in reflection and, at the same time, preparation for a new year. We ask ourselves, "How did we fare this year?" For the thousands who lost everything, in some cases loved ones in the recent fires, and for the families of our fallen or injured soldiers, the reflection is painful. We keep the memories of them close to our hearts.

How we answer this retrospective question about 2003 tells a lot about who we are and what we want. What's your measure? Money? Family? Job? Health?

As your federal representative, how do I think we fared this year? Well, foremost, I believe we are a nation of immense talent, resilience, and immeasurable goodwill. But, I am openly critical of the way our government has squandered its resources and opportunities these days. A projected record federal budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion stewarded into a projected record deficit of \$3.5 trillion! Incomes are down. Over three million jobs lost since January 2001. Nearly 44 million Americans without health insurance. Over 280 American soldiers lost in Iraq since President Bush declared "mission accomplished" on May 1. The goodwill the world extended to us after 9/11 also squandered by our rush to war. Our "my way or the highway" diplomacy leaves us walking a lonely and bumpy post-war road.

I could be wrong, but I say there is a better way to govern. If you read on, you will learn some of what I believe we should do to make America's families stronger for 2004 and beyond. None of these ideas are pipe dreams; in fact, they are hard and fast proposals.

So now I'd like to hear your thoughts. I hope you will complete the enclosed survey and attend one of my future town hall meetings. Meanwhile, I'll keep working hard to earn your confidence.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

MAKING AMERICA'S FAMILIES STRONGER

JOB

FACTS	CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine million Americans are unemployed. Another 1.6 million long-term unemployed go uncounted because they are classified as inactive job seekers. Over three million jobs have been lost since January 2001. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass a jobs package that would give tax relief to small businesses encouraging them to hire new employees. Invest more in our nation's transportation and infrastructure system to both improve our roads and highways, as well as hire Americans to execute these goals. All in all, economists say these proposals also encompassed in the House Democratic plan will create one million jobs without adding one penny to the deficit.

EDUCATION

FACTS	CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One month after Congress passed the President's "No Child Left Behind Act," the President underfunded his own program by \$8 billion. The current national school construction deficit stands at \$127 billion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as invest \$4 billion a year more for education and training than current Republican budget plans. Offer cash-strapped schools a way to fund school construction: school districts issue bonds, the federal government will pay the interest (result: interest-free loans).

TAXES

FACTS	CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$350 billion tax cut passed by Congress earlier this year breaks down like this: the wealthiest 5% receive 45% of the benefits, 200,000 millionaires will receive an average tax break of \$93,500, most Americans receive an average of less than \$100. The median family income in the 31st Congressional District is just over \$23,000 - the tax cuts will do little to help these hard-working families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the \$350 billion to reduce our budget deficit, which will keep interest rates down and extend tax cuts to all Americans with mortgage or car/student/personal loans. Targeted tax relief, including a full child tax credit, accelerated depreciation, and an employee health insurance tax credit for small businesses. The end result will still leave us with savings (whereas the Bush plan leaves us in the red) to invest money in a serious prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

TRADE & MANUFACTURING

FACTS	CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S PROPOSALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. trade deficit hit a record high of \$435 billion in 2002. 2003 is expected to be even worse. China pays workers in it's manufacturing heartland an average of 60 cents an hour. Levis Strauss Company recently announced the closing of its last factory in the U.S. Stanley Tool Company recently tried to move its corporate "headquarters" to Bermuda, permitting it to evade paying U.S. taxes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact H.R. 1769, a bi-partisan bill that would provide a manufacturing tax credit to companies that produce their goods and services in the U.S., the end result being a rise in manufacturing jobs. Use existing trade laws to investigate "product dumping" by foreign producers. Enact H.R. 715, a bi-partisan bill to keep film and TV production based in the U.S.

CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S ANNUAL SURVEY ON GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Help me best represent you. Please take a moment to fill out this attached survey and mail it back to my office. Thanks for caring.



- Are you better off today than you were at this time in 2000?
 - YES NO
 - If you answered "YES," please indicate the reasons you believe you are better off (check all that apply):
 - Better/stable/rewarding employment My business has prospered/grown
 - Obtained/increased health insurance coverage
 - Better educational or training opportunities for you/your children
 - Higher income Lower Taxes Other: _____
 - If you answered "NO," please indicate the reasons you believe you are worse off (check all that apply):
 - Lack of/unstable/unrewarding employment My business has deteriorated/down-sized
 - Cost of educational/training for you/your children too high
 - Loss of income Higher Taxes Other: _____
- The current federal minimum wage stands at \$5.15 an hour (\$10,712 per year). Do you believe it should (check one):
 - Be less (please answer 2a) Be more (please answer 2a) Stay the same
 - 2a. Please indicate what you feel the minimum wage should be: \$_____/hour
- Congress just passed, and the president just signed, an \$87 billion funding bill for reconstruction and military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. What are your feelings on this? (Check all that apply)
 - It should have been more It should have been less
 - It should not have passed in the first place
 - The money, at least part of it, should have been appropriated as a loan, rather than an outright grant
 - The expenditure should be paid for to avoid adding to this year's existing budget deficit.
- Do you believe the President possessed enough evidence to make the decision to go to war in Iraq?
 - YES NO
- What should be the nation's current policy toward Iraq? (check all that apply)
 - Stay the course Deploy more troops Bring all the troops home
 - Work to form an international coalition to share responsibility for reconstruction and peace-keeping operations
- Congress just passed, and the president just signed, a bill banning the procedure that is commonly referred to as "partial birth abortion." Do you agree with this decision?
 - YES NO
- Corporate governance and investment practices have been in the news in the past few years. Recent reports have detailed the substantial salaries paid to corporate CEO's and senior executives. What do you feel the average CEO should be paid as compared to the average American worker?
 - Whatever the company is willing to pay
 - 300 times that of the company's average rank-and-file employee salary
 - 100 times the salary 50 times the salary 10 times the salary
 - Other (please fill in your own answer) _____



FOLD HERE FOR MAILING



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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

PLACE
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DELIVER TO:

Congressman Xavier Becerra
1910 Sunset Blvd. Suite 560
Los Angeles, CA 90026



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