

# THE BECERRA BULLETIN

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WASHINGTON TO LOS ANGELES

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 discourse about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### *RECONCILIATION CUTS LEAVE REPUBLICANS NEEDING PENANCE*

House Republicans are currently working to slash taxes once again that would benefit the wealthiest Americans by a jaw-dropping \$70 billion. On top of this, they are claiming that the money spent as a result of the federal government’s response to recent natural disasters must be offset by cutting \$53 billion in mandatory spending from programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, student loans and child support. All of this, however, is just a guise for more needless tax breaks, as this fiscally irresponsible plan will actually increase the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next five years.

Here’s what we know about the proposed program cuts:

- \$14 billion from student aid programs, including added burdens for students and their families through increased interest rates and loan fees
- \$10 billion from Medicaid, targeting health services for poor children and long-term care patients, and increased drug costs
- \$5 billion from child support enforcement – a program that brings a four to one return on investment to kids
- \$1.3 billion from Foster Care and Supplemental Security Income disability payments, and child care services under TANF welfare-to-work programs
- \$844 million from Food Stamps, eliminating nutrition and school lunch and breakfast benefits for hundreds of thousands of children

Seventy billion dollars in tax breaks for those who do not need it ... \$53 billion in government spending cuts for those that do ... \$100 billion added to the deficit – this is neither responsible nor right.

## SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON

### *A STRONGER MEXICO = A STRONGER AMERICA*

Last month, Rep. Becerra traveled to Mexico with Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-7) to meet the presidential candidates of the three major political parties of our neighbors to the south. “Our visit sends a powerful message that Democrats are committed to strengthening the relationship between our two countries, while strengthening Mexico’s democracy so that we can make real progress on issues like border security and sensible immigration reform, as well as advance the interests of both countries’ economies,” Rep. Becerra said.

## SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

### *KEEPING THE 31<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT MOVING*

Whether you travel on the Arroyo Seco Parkway (SR 110), San Fernando Road, or Central Avenue, critical transportation projects identified by Rep. Becerra for funding under the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users” bill (SAFETEA-LU) will soon be underway. President Bush recently signed into law the SAFETEA-LU, providing an infusion of much-needed guaranteed funding over the next five years for federal highway and transit programs. Nationally, this legislation provides necessary transportation infrastructure, increases highway safety, and creates and maintains thousands of jobs. Rep. Becerra fought to make sure a number of local projects that benefit Los Angeles residents were included in SAFETEA-LU. Mass transit patrons of several local metro stations and bus lines also will benefit from planned safety improvements that range from elevator accessibility to bus stop and pedestrian enhancements.

Media Inquiries: please contact Steve Haro, 202.225.6235.



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

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Human Resources & Subcommittee on Social Security

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

