

FROM:

FIRST LAST NAME

STREET ADDRESS

Los Angeles, CA ZIP (Please Print Clearly)

DELIVER TO:

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

Place stamp here

CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S SURVEY ON GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Help me best represent you. Put yourself in my shoes and make some tough choices. Please take a moment to fill out the attached survey and mail it back to my office.

1. What should be the federal government's top five priorities (please rank):

- ___ Economic Recovery/Jobs
___ Education
___ Social Security
___ Healthcare
___ Fighting Crime
___ Combating Terrorism Abroad
___ Homeland Security
___ War with Iraq
___ Prescription drugs under Medicare
___ Cutting Taxes
___ Other

2. The two greatest threats to our security are (please rank):

- ___ Terrorism
___ Economic Recession
___ Gangs/Neighborhood Crime
___ Poverty
___ Lack of Healthcare
___ Iraq

3. President Bush has called for "regime change" in Iraq. Do you support a U.S.-led war against Iraq (please respond "yes" or "no" to each of the options below):

- ___ To remove Saddam Hussein from power
___ If Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction (i.e. nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons)
___ If the United Nations endorses an attack
___ I do not support a war against Iraq (answer "yes" if agree)

4. President Bush wants to make last year's \$1.7 trillion tax cuts (which expire at the end of 2010) permanent. Do you agree?

- ___ Yes ___ No

5. Just extending the tax cuts an additional 10 years to 2020 (vs. permanently) will cost an additional \$4.1 trillion. How would you pay for this?

- ___ Cut domestic programs (education, healthcare, housing, transportation, small business and veterans programs) [which is 16% of federal budget]
___ Allow deficit in budget (equal to borrowing money and thus increasing the overall national debt, which currently stands at \$6.3 trillion) [annual interest payment on national debt is 11% of budget]
___ Reduce Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid benefits [46% of budget]
___ Reduce military spending [16% of budget]



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M.C.

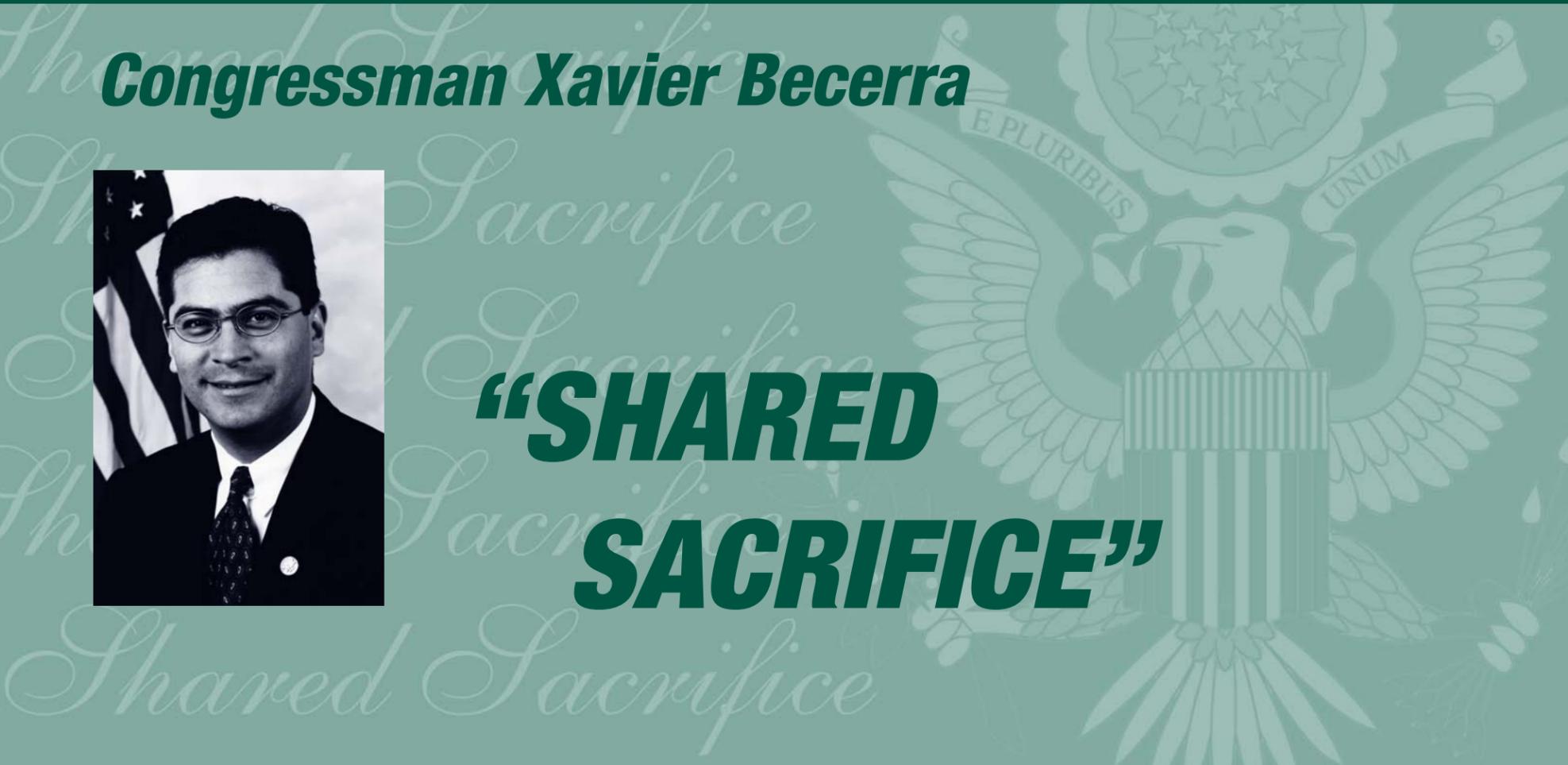


U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman Xavier Becerra
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Xavier Becerra



"SHARED SACRIFICE"



**“When we work together to achieve collective goals, we can accomplish anything.”
– Congressman Xavier Becerra**



Dear Friends:

During my decade of service in Congress, I have seen first-hand how blessed we are as a nation. No other body of citizenry anywhere in the world enjoys the rights, freedoms and opportunities that are afforded to Americans each and every day.

Our ingenuity continues to amaze. We continue to excel. Our democratic principles remain the standard around the world. We work hard, we earn our reward, and we share our gain as a nation.

But, admittedly, times are tough. Too many hard working Americans are hardly working, global terrorism persists, and a possible war with Iraq looms over our heads. And when we put it all into perspective, we realize that it will take the collective work and sacrifice of all Americans to stem the tide of economic recession and global insecurity.

I remain optimistic in our ability to fix our problems at home while dealing with our challenges abroad. When we work together to achieve collective goals, we can accomplish anything. Indeed, a stronger America is on the horizon. To get there, though, will take a little work ... a little effort ... and some shared sacrifice.

Together ... sharing ... that's been America's formula for success. So once more, let's roll up our sleeves and work through the pain of today for the promise of tomorrow. Let's make 2003 a great year for our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

Hundreds Attend Rep. Becerra's Town Halls



An attentive crowd listens as Rep. Becerra responds to a question about economic growth.

Rep. Becerra has held town hall meetings every year that he has served in office. This year's meetings, which took place throughout the month of August 2002, saw a record number of constituents in attendance. Rep. Becerra made a presentation on Social Security, prescription drugs, last year's \$1.7 trillion tax cut, corporate responsibility, the war on terrorism, and possible war with Iraq. Attendees also took part in a spirited question and answer session, asking the congressman thought-provoking questions.

CONGRESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS, FALL 2002

Social Security Forum Educates Both Audience Members and Legislators

Over 250 seniors, baby-boomers and Gen-X'ers gathered for "A Public Forum on Social Security: Bringing the Debate from D.C. to Downtown L.A." to hear a distinguished group of panelists testify before four members of Congress about the future of the nation's Social Security program. Rep. Becerra, the only member from Southern California who serves on the Subcommittee on Social Security, sponsored the event.



Participants raised concerns over Social Security privatization, COLAs, and Trust Fund surpluses.

Marvin Schachter, a member of the California Commission on Aging, testifies at Rep. Becerra's Public Forum on Social Security.



Rep. Robert Matsui (CA - 5) (left), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Social Security and Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA - 30) listen to testimony by Social Security experts and advocates at Rep. Becerra's public forum in August 2002.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

H.J.Res. 114, Authorization For the Use of Military Force Against Iraq

This resolution provided President Bush with the authority to send American troops into Iraq in a unilateral, first strike attack against that nation, even without international support. Because the legislation failed to support a cooperative approach and instead gave the president broader than normal discretion over committing our troops to war, **Congressman Becerra voted against the resolution.**

H.R. 5710, Homeland Security Act of 2002

This legislation created the Department of Homeland Security, which reorganizes a number of government agencies and approximately 170,000 federal employees under one roof. H.R. 5710 expands the government's authority to conceal information that companies provide to the government and it strips labor protections from those who work in the department. In addition, some last minute changes to the bill added several anti-consumer and anti-competition special interest provisions that have nothing to do with homeland security. Congressman Becerra supports the establishment of a homeland security agency, but not the secrecy, anti-worker, or special interest provisions attached to H.R. 5710. For these reasons, **Congressman Becerra voted against the bill.**

H.R. 3210, Terrorism Insurance

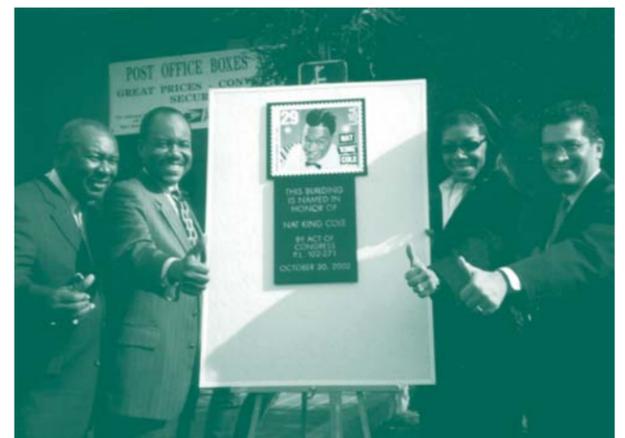
Congressman Becerra voted for this legislation that will help our struggling economy by creating a temporary federal terrorism insurance backstop to protect businesses across the country and encourage job creation. More than \$15.5 billion in real estate transactions have been stalled or cancelled due to the scarcity of adequate and affordable terrorism insurance. This bipartisan law ensures the availability of affordable insurance coverage for office buildings, shopping malls, sports stadiums, amusement parks, and other places where American families gather.

Three National Organizations Give Rep. Becerra an A

Rep. Becerra earned a perfect score of 100 percent for his voting record in 2002 from **The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** and the **American Association of University Women**. **The League of Conservation Voters** recognized him at 93 percent.

Oakwood Post Office Renamed After Nat King Cole

Following through on the local community's desire to honor the legendary Nat King Cole, Rep. Becerra authored and gained passage of legislation to officially change the name of the post office at 265 S. Western Avenue to the "Nat King Cole Post Office." Over 100 people joined Rep. Becerra and Nat King Cole's family, including brother Freddy and daughters Natalie and Carole, for the dedication ceremony on December 9, 2002. The event was simply "unforgettable!"



(From left to right) Freddy Cole, Postmaster James Smith, Natalie Cole and Congressman Becerra give a "thumbs up" at the Nat King Cole Post Office Dedication ceremony.

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