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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 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," a regular newsletter with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discourse about American economic policy and host of issues.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its newest unemployment numbers today. Here's what we know:

- 5.6 percent = Current rate of unemployment (unchanged from the previous month).
- 21,000 = the number of jobs created in February.
- 0 = the number of jobs created that were in the private sector.
- 125,000 = the number of jobs independent economists expected the economy to create in February.
- 97,000 = the number of jobs created in January (down from the previously reported 115,000).
- 8,300,000 = the number of unemployed Americans.
- 345,000 = the number of new jobless claims filed with state unemployment offices this week.
- 3,000,000 = the number of private sector jobs lost nationwide since January 20, 2001.
- 585,700 = the number of jobs lost in California during that same time.

SHORT TAKES -- WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET AN EXERCISE IN FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY

Rep. Becerra, along with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA – 8), hosted a press conference Wednesday, March 10, to highlight the impact the president's fiscal year 2005 budget would have on working families with particular attention to Latinos.

"Once again, the president has shown that tax breaks for the wealthy trump fiscal responsibility, leaving critical government programs that are the hallmark of American idealism to fend for themselves," Rep. Becerra said. "At a cost of \$2.4 trillion and still containing a projected \$521 billion deficit, this budget not only fails to deliver on the government's promise to protect the interests of citizens, but also hurts the pocketbooks of Americans for generations to come."

Quick FAQs:

- One in four Latinos drop out of high school, yet the president's budget would eliminate the all-important dropout prevention program.
- Two-thirds of all Latinos in America spend more than one-third of their income on housing – the president's budget cuts 8 grants \$791 million below the 2004 level and \$2 billion below what is needed.

SHORT TAKES -- LOS ANGELES

\$100K SECURED FOR EL CENTRO

Rep. Becerra and El Centro del Pueblo, a non-profit community service agency in the 31st District, recently conducted a safety seat seminar in honor of National Child Seat Safety Week. While there, Rep. Becerra announced that El Centro will receive a \$100,000 federal grant that he helped secure through the department of Commerce to expand its social programs aimed at improving the quality of life for youth and their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT STEVE HARO, 213.483.1425 . 213.819.0004 (CELL)



Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California

[Committee on Ways and Means](#)

[Subcommittee on Trade](#) & [Subcommittee on Social Security](#)

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