

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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Congressman Xavier Becerra

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT
AND SERVING AS VICE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



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

THE DISTRICT DIGEST DISPATCHES FROM THE 31ST



OUR FUTURE LEADERS: ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ-JARAMILLO & ALLAN CHENG

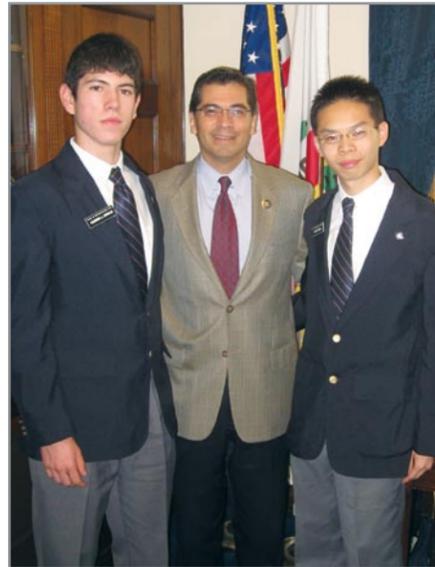
On occasion I am granted the great privilege of sponsoring a high school student from our district to the House of Representatives Page Program. This year I had the rare opportunity of sponsoring two outstanding students to serve as House Pages: Alejandro Jimenez-Jaramillo and Allan Cheng. For nearly 200 years Pages have served in the House, assisting Congress members and staff to carry out their legislative duties and prepare the House Floor for session. To learn more about the program and hear about future Page opportunities, visit the Students section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov>. Allan and Alejandro both excelled in the program, and you can learn more about them here:

ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ-JARAMILLO

As a sophomore at Eagle Rock High School, Alejandro has succeeded as a top student, athlete, musician and member of student government. Whether leading the varsity soccer team to victory, mentoring a fellow student in biology, or performing at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Alejandro has shown himself to be a true leader.

ALLAN CHENG

A sophomore and class of 2011 valedictorian at Downtown Magnets High School, Allan is an avid basketball player, peer mentor and community volunteer. When not studying or shooting hoops, Allan is busy volunteering at the Los Angeles Chinatown Youth Center and working to make his community a better place.



Rep. Becerra with CA-31 House Pages Alejandro Jimenez-Jaramillo (left) and Allan Cheng (right)

To learn more about the House Page Program, visit the Students section at <http://Becerra.House.Gov>



CENSUS 2010 - DO YOUR PART, STAND AND BE COUNTED

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

The distribution of \$400 billion a year in federal funds toward our communities is determined by the census. The census counts every resident in the United States—regardless of citizenship—and guarantees your representation in Congress.

HOW IT WORKS

In March of 2010, you will receive a one-page form with 10 short questions and a prepaid envelope. If you do not return your form, a census taker will follow up with you in person in order to obtain the responses.

PRIVACY PROTECTED

By law, the information you provide on your form or to a census taker is kept strictly confidential.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

Visit <http://2010.Census.Gov>
Or call: 1-800-923-8282

CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S NEWSLETTER • CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT • WINTER 2009-2010 • <http://Becerra.House.Gov>



A YEAR OF STEADY PROGRESS

Dear Friends:

Last November the American people came together in the spirit of hope, during one of the worst economic crises in our nation's history, to demand a new direction for our country.

Most economists now say that we have experienced the worst of this deep recession. In January we lost 741,000 jobs compared to 11,000 this month—the fewest since the recession began. We turned the corner, thanks in part to the Recovery Act that was signed into law in February. However, there is still much work to be done, and putting America back to work is priority number one.

In December the House of Representatives passed legislation to spur the creation of good, sustainable jobs. Jobs rebuilding our roads and bridges... small business jobs... jobs in the emerging clean energy and technology sectors. Jobs that pay well and will grow into rewarding careers. The investments that this legislation makes will also allow us to train, hire and retain teachers, police officers and firefighters in our communities.

In this year of progress millions of previously uninsured children were able to get coverage thanks to an expansion

of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Credit card holders will finally be protected against unregulated interest rate hikes and unreasonable fees, while thousands of homeowners have avoided foreclosure by refinancing their loans under the Making Home Affordable program.

We are on course to effectively end the United States combat mission in Iraq next year. And with the passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act in the House, we now have a fighting chance at providing quality, affordable health care to all Americans. These are just some of the major achievements of the past year.

In 2010 we must complete work on health insurance reform and deliver the jobs of the future that so many willing Americans stand ready to fill.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

DROP BY THE OFFICE OR GIVE ME A CALL

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CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C.



HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM: HOW IT WORKS FOR YOU



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- At least 46 million Americans are uninsured—more than 85 percent of whom are in working families (Census Bureau, 2007)...
- Employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have more than doubled—a rate three times faster than wage increases (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2009)...
- And in 2007, 60 percent of bankruptcies were reportedly related to medical costs (American Journal of Medicine, 2009)?

To address these problems the House passed the **Affordable Health Care for America Act**. Here's what the legislation could mean for you:

LOWER COST

- ✓ No more co-pays or deductibles for preventive care
- ✓ No more rate increases for pre-existing conditions
- ✓ An annual cap on your out-of-pocket expenses

GREATER CHOICE

- ✓ More choices, with a high quality public health insurance option competing with private insurers
- ✓ Keep your doctor, and your current plan, if you like them
- ✓ Guaranteed, affordable oral, hearing, and vision care for your kids
- ✓ You can change jobs and keep your coverage

HIGHER QUALITY

- ✓ You and your doctors make health care decision—not insurance companies
- ✓ More family doctors and nurses will enter the workforce, helping guarantee access
- ✓ Mental health care must be covered

To learn more about how health insurance reform could work, visit <http://Becerra.House.Gov>

FROM DREAM TO REALITY? COMMISSION BEGINS STUDY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO



Rep. Becerra unveils the commission to study the potential creation of a national museum of the American Latino with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, October 13, 2009 outside the U.S. Capitol.

If you want to know what it means to be an American, the best way to find out is by visiting the outstanding museums that line the National Mall in Washington, D.C. However, when you finish your visit to these institutions you won't walk away with a complete picture. The story of Latinos in America, which predates the founding of the first colonies, is largely absent from the mosaic portrayed in our national museums. That is why, six years ago, I introduced legislation to establish a commission to study the potential creation of a national museum of the American Latino. Signed into law last year by President Bush, the bill mandates the establishment of a bipartisan 23-member commission to explore and report back to Congress on the possibility of building such a museum focused on the vast contributions Latinos have made to our nation's history and culture. The commission is expected to submit its report within a year.

CREATING JOBS PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

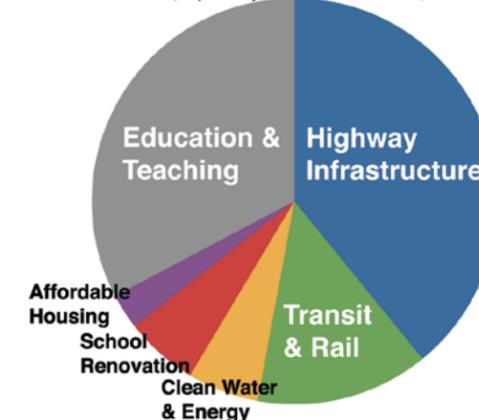


ECONOMIC RECOVERY MEANS JOBS FOR MAIN STREET

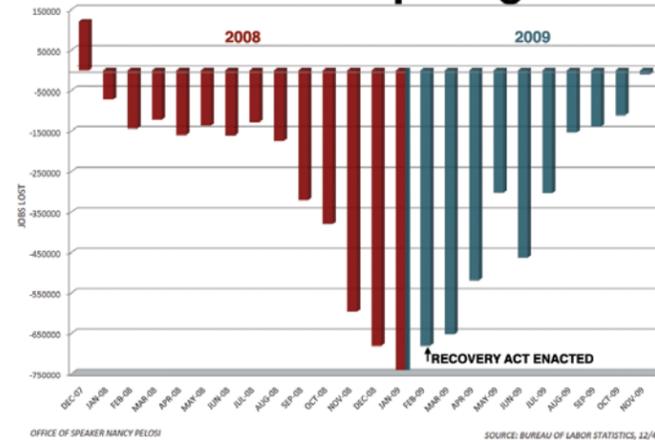
Some economists credit the Recovery Act for bringing the American economy back from the brink, moving us from 741,000 job losses in January to 11,000 in November—the fewest since the recession began (see chart below, left). At the same time, America's economic output shifted from a steep 6.4 percent decline at the beginning of 2009 to 2.2 percent growth this fall (see chart below, right). That is the largest six month turnaround in 29 years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the Recovery Act has created or saved up to 1.6 million jobs, with less than half of the money spent. Unfortunately, many working families are still struggling to overcome the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression. We must do more. On December 16, the House of Representatives passed the Jobs for Main Street Act to make targeted job-creating investments in America's infrastructure and small businesses. The House-passed bill invests \$48 billion to put people back to work rebuilding roads and bridges, modernizing public buildings, and improving clean water infrastructure. It also includes \$27 billion to save or create approximately 250,000 education jobs over the next two years and put 5,000 law enforcement officers on the beat (see top-right chart for investment proportions). The

bill also includes economy-boosting emergency aid for those hit hardest by the recession with extended unemployment benefits and help with health insurance costs. The recent increase in weekly unemployment claims to 480,000 makes it clear that our work is not finished.

Jobs for Main Street Act:
\$75 Billion for Targeted Job-Creating Investments
Chart shows proportion of funds invested in each jobs category
Source: Text of H.R.2847, as passed by the House on December 16, 2009

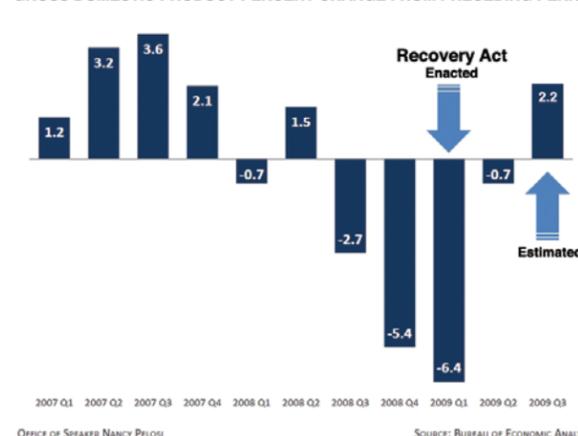


Job Losses Tapering Off



Economy Headed Toward Growth

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PERCENT CHANGE FROM PRECEDING PERIOD



RECOVERY ACT SAVING AND CREATING JOBS HERE IN LOS ANGELES



Since it was signed into law in February, the Recovery Act has already created and saved approximately 2,000 jobs in Los Angeles (Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, 2009). Many of those jobs include teachers in our public schools, nurses in our neighborhood health clinics, and workers repairing our roads. The Recovery Act is also investing

more than \$400,000 in Los Angeles to train workers in the green energy and construction jobs of the future—from home weatherization to building the next generation of energy efficient and sustainable buildings. The Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) and Women in Non Traditional Employment Roles (WINTER), two outstanding nonprofits in the 31st Congressional District each received Recovery grants to train Angelinos for green energy sector jobs. To learn more about the Recovery Act, visit <http://www.Recovery.Gov>.