

August 5, 2011 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), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, brings you “The Becerra Bulletin,” an e-newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discussion about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

---

### **THE DAMAGE ALREADY DONE**

In an unprecedented move, the majority party in the House of Representatives held our economy hostage in order to impose ideological budget priorities. Instead of going after the main drivers of our deficits, the Republican majority advocated deep and indiscriminate cuts to programs that work like education and Social Security. Instead of embracing the American values of shared sacrifice and fairness, they refused to ask the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share of reducing our deficits. And while much media attention has been paid to this reckless game of brinkmanship, America is already beginning to suffer the consequences of Republican budget cuts and the uncertainty their policies have caused in the economy so far this year. Here’s a look at the numbers:

- **\$1.7 billion: additional interest charged** to U.S. taxpayers on August 1 due to debt ceiling impasse ( [CNN Money, 8/2/2011](#) )
- **10.5 percent: [drop in value](#)** of the Dow Jones Industrial Average over the past three months
- **90,000: airport construction projects [on hold](#)** due to failure to pass FAA reauthorization
- **4,000:** Number of aviation workers [indefinitely furloughed](#)
- **1,600:** Social Security [jobs eliminated](#) this year
- **49: [fewer hours](#)** all Social Security offices will be open this year due to budget cuts

On August 1, Rep. Becerra voted against the unbalanced debt ceiling legislation and said: “Who in Washington is listening to the American people? This proposal does not speak to the values of America—it is not balanced nor does it ask for shared sacrifice. It does nothing about the main drivers of our deficits: the Bush tax cuts, and the unfunded wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And it does nothing to fix the biggest deficit holding our economy back: the jobs deficit.”

SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON, D.C.

---

### **REP. BECERRA APPEARS ON FOX NEWS SUNDAY TO DISCUSS DEFICIT NEGOTIATIONS**

On Sunday, July 10 Rep. Becerra appeared on Fox News Sunday and spoke with host Bret Baier about the ongoing debt and deficit negotiations. You can [watch](#) his appearance online here:



You can view all of Rep. Becerra’s recent television appearances by visiting the [Becerra Broadcast](#) page on his website.

SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

---

---

## **HEARING FROM THE FOLKS BACK HOME ON DEFICIT NEGOTIATIONS**

On July 23, Rep. Becerra held a Coffee With Your Congressman meeting at Huntington Drive Elementary School where ongoing deficit negotiations were a hot topic. Then, on July 28 and August 3, before and after the final debt ceiling legislation was voted on in Congress, Rep. Becerra held telephone town hall [meetings](#) to hear directly from his constituents on this important issue. Many town hall participants expressed concern about the potential consequences of default. One questioner said: “the veterans and the seniors—they’re going to be hurting if they can’t pay their bills or go to the doctor.” If you were unable to participate in one of the town hall meetings, you can listen to them on the

[Becerra Podcast](#)

page of Rep. Becerra’s website or click on the links below (MP3 player required):

- [Telephone Town Hall on Deficit Negotiations 07-28-2011](#) (52:15)
- [Telephone Town Hall on Deficit Deal 08-03-2011](#) (51:29)