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December 2, 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. Click here view this Bulletin in the Becerra Blog and leave your comments.

BY THE NUMBERS

AMERICA WORKS WHEN AMERICANS ARE WORKING In October, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report that stated if the economy was operating at full unemployment (5.2%), **“the projected federal deficit under current law in fiscal year 2012 would be about a third lower.”**

The math is simple: when Americans are working their incomes increase, federal revenues rise and the amount the federal government spends decreases. As a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, Rep. Becerra was committed to finding a balanced approach to reducing the federal deficit including a way to put millions of Americans back to work. Below is a closer look at the current economic challenges our country faces:

- **13.3 million (8.6%)** Americans are currently unemployed
- California ranks **2nd** highest in the nation with an unemployment rate of **11.7%**
- **2.9 million** private sector jobs have been created in the last **21** consecutive months
- During that same period of time **487,000** public sector employees have lost their jobs
- The economic recession and high unemployment has increased the deficit by **\$3.4 trillion (27%)**

Sources: Department of Labor, CBO & PEW

SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON, D.C.

REP. BECERRA ON “FOX NEWS SUNDAY” □ On November 20, Rep. Becerra appeared on “Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace” to discuss the importance of balancing the federal budget deficit in a responsible way that doesn’t hurt our seniors and working families. He also stressed the need for Congress to get serious about tackling the biggest deficit our country faces—the jobs deficit. You can view the episode

[here](#)

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REP. BECERRA ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION COMMITTEE On November 21, Rep. Becerra released the following statement after the Co-Chairs of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction announced the conclusion of its work:

“The path forward was clear. □ The elements of a balanced plan for job creation and deficit reduction were in front of us. □ Unfortunately, the Joint Select Committee has missed a huge opportunity. □ This is not the outcome I had hoped for. □ The American people deserve a better deal than the looming automatic cuts to important federal services. □ Yet, one truth has not changed: despite our differences, we must figure out how to get Americans back to work and our country back on track. □ For, in the end, it's not about Republicans or Democrats, it's about America and her families. □ So, tomorrow we pick up the pieces and go back to work.”

Visit Rep. Becerra's [website](#) to learn more about his work on the [Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#)

SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL On his November 16 Telephone Town Hall, Rep. Becerra took questions from across the 31st Congressional District. The issues of job creation and finding a balanced solution to our nation's budget imbalance dominated the discussion. If you missed this telephone town hall you can listen to an audio recording by clicking on the link below (MP3 player required):

[Telephone Town Hall, November 16, 2011 \(54 min 44 sec\)](#)

REP. BECERRA SALUTES OUR VETERANS On November 13, Rep. Becerra participated in a ceremony at Eagle Rock City Hall to honor our veterans and all the men and women who are currently serving in the armed forces. Read more about this year's Veterans Day event on [Eagle Rock Patch](#)