Today, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-8) were joined by the presidents, administrators and students from several southern California colleges and universities for a roundtable discussion at Occidental College on college affordability the student loan interest rates, which are set to double from 3.4% to 6.8% for over 570,000 Californians and 7 million Americans unless Congress acts by July 1, 2012 .

Click here to view more photos from the event .

"Students should graduate from college dreaming about every opportunity that their future holds and not about more debt," Rep. Becerra said. **"If we're to keep the American Dream alive for our kids and the next generation of leaders, Congress must take immediate action to prevent interest rates on student loans from doubling."**

Other roundtable attendees included:

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Dr. Jonathan Veitch, President, Occidental College;

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Dr. Roland "Chip" Chapdelaine, President, Los Angeles, Trade Technical College;

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Dr. Ann McElaney-Johnson, President, Mount St. Mary's College;

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Dr. Jamillah Moore, President, Los Angeles City College;

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Mr. Luis Dorado, Dean of Student Services, Los Angeles Trade Technical College;

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Mr. Ron Johnson, Financial Aid Director, University of California at Los Angeles;

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Students from Occidental College, California State University (Los Angeles), University of Southern California, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles City College, University of California at Irvine, University of California at Riverside, Loyola Marymount, and University of California at Berkeley.