

**CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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Congressman  
**Xavier  
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California's 34th Congressional District  
Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus



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CALIFORNIA'S 34TH DISTRICT • WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013 • BECERRA.HOUSE.GOV



One of the best tools I have to serve you and keep you informed is an accessible and easy-to-use website.

In November 2013, I launched a newly re-designed website, [Becerra.House.Gov](http://Becerra.House.Gov). I invite you to visit the new site and use it to share your thoughts with me via email, sign up for the Becerra Bulletin, or to stay updated on upcoming events in the 34th District.

In addition, stay connected with me online through my Facebook page, Twitter feed, or YouTube channel and find out where I'll be in the district.

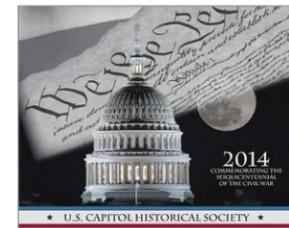
## FEDERAL GRANTS

As your Representative, I'm here to assist you with the federal grant application process. Federal grant opportunities are available for a broad range of issues: arts and culture, children and youth, community development/services support, education and research, environment, health, housing, transportation, and women's issues.

In 2013, organizations and individuals in the 34th Congressional District received nearly \$45 million in federal grant awards ranging from the arts, Head Start, veterans services, and health care.

Visit my [Becerra.House.Gov](http://Becerra.House.Gov) to sign up for my office's Grants E-Newsletter to receive information on the latest grant opportunities offered by federal agencies for organizations and constituents of the 34th Congressional District.

## We, The People calendar



In years past, I may have sent you a We, The People calendar from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society because you contacted my office or attended one of my "Coffee with Your Congressman" town hall meetings. In 2014, due to budget constraints, I only have a limited number of calendars available.

**To request a 2015 calendar, please call my office at 213-481-1425 between the hours of 9am and 5pm and let my staff know that you would like a calendar.**



### Let's Get The People's Work Done

Dear Friends,

It's my privilege to serve as your voice in Washington, D.C. for the 34th Congressional District. Ours is a district which spans some of Los Angeles' most diverse communities.

Over this past year, hard-working Americans all across our country and here in Los Angeles have continued to recover from the 2008 Wall Street meltdown. And while more than 8 million Americans have returned to work over the last 4 years (Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 2013), there's still much more work to do. One thing Congress must never do again, however, is play with the American people's hard-earned money and shut the doors of government.

This coming year, the only thing that Congress should shutdown is the extreme party politics which has had us lurching from one manufactured crisis to the next. In 2014, we must focus on our critical priorities: growing our

economy, creating jobs, strengthening the middle class, protecting Americans' health security and finally passing commonsense immigration reform.

Here at home, my duty as your Representative in Congress is to help you get answers and secure the services you paid for. Whether it's Social Security or VA benefits, Affordable Care health insurance, federal tax issues, military academy nominations, or how to get a passports, my staff and I are ready to help you. Stay in touch by visiting my district office or Becerra.House.Gov website, writing me a letter or giving me a call at 213-481-1425.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress

Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 481-1425.

**DROP BY THE OFFICE OR GIVE US A CALL**

Sign up for email updates at:

**[Becerra.House.gov](http://Becerra.House.gov)**

350 S. Bixel Street, Suite 120  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 481-1425

1226 Longworth HOB  
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## HEALTH SECURITY FOR AMERICA: GETTING COVERED IN CALIFORNIA

In just over two months, more than **200,000** Californians enrolled in a new health insurance plan through Covered California and **180,000** gained eligibility for Medi-Cal. (Source: Covered CA).



As Californians prepared for the opening of the new insurance marketplace, I held a series of information sessions across the 34th District. I made it a priority to help my constituents understand their new health coverage options. Each session was an opportunity for folks to sit down with certified enrollment counselors from Covered California. To find enrollment assistance near you, visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com).

*Attendees at an ACA information session in Boyle Heights get one-on-one counseling from certified enrollment counselors. December 7, 2013.*

**Did you know?** Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, up to 16 million Californians, including over 2 million children, can no longer be denied coverage by insurance companies due to preexisting conditions (Source: Department of Health & Human Services).

## THE TIME IS NOW FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Our current immigration system is broken and any reform should be tough, smart and fair. In October, I cosponsored a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. This bill is currently cosponsored by 195 Democratic and Republican members of Congress. This bipartisan solution would match the commonsense immigration reform bill passed in the Senate this summer and offer aspiring Americans an earned path to citizenship. Giving aspiring Americans a chance to earn their citizenship reflects our values as a nation. We have moved on from the days of denying the American Dream to those who come here and give us their best.

At a time when our priority in Congress should be to strengthen the economy, reforming our brooking immigration system would reduce our nation's deficits by a trillion dollars and boost job growth by hundreds of thousands (Source: Congressional Budget Office). When two-thirds of the American people support immigration reform, including a path to citizenship, it's time for Congress to catch up.



*Congressman Becerra visits with community leaders for immigration reform. November 20, 2013.*

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES

### NEW DISTRICT OFFICE

In 2013 due to redistricting, I opened a new Los Angeles office to serve constituents of the 34th District. My district office is now located at 350 S. Bixel, Suite 120, Los Angeles, CA 90017. My district office staff has over 30 years combined experience cutting red tape on behalf of constituents just like you. Here are some of the ways we can assist you:



*Congressman Becerra meets with constituents to discuss the arts in the 34th District. May 1, 2013.*

### VETERANS

If you have problems receiving your VA benefits, with eligibility determinations or replacing medals, my staff can assist you. In September of this year, we helped a Westlake veteran resolve his benefits claim which was over 10 years old and receive his long over-due benefits.

### SENIORS

My staff can also investigate cases involving Social Security benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicare eligibility.

### IRS

If you have federal tax related problems, my office can work with the IRS and the Taxpayer Advocate Service to ensure you get them resolved in a timely manner.

## 34TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STUDENT ART COMPETITION

To all high school students in the 34th Congressional District: My office is now accepting submissions for the 2014 Congressional Student Art Competition. The deadline to enter is March 14, 2014. Every year, talented young artists enter for a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C. and have their entry displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. To participate, you must reside in the 34th Congressional District. For competition rules and guidelines, please visit

[Becerra.house.gov](http://Becerra.house.gov)

*2013 Student Art Competition 1st Place Winner: "Mariachi Plaza, Boyle Heights" by Stephanie Varela.*

