



# Congressman Xavier Becerra

EMAIL XAVIER CASEWORK

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT  
AND SERVING AS ASSISTANT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE


- HOME
- ABOUT XAVIER
- ISSUES
- CONSTITUENT SERVICES
- DISTRICT PAGE
- NEWS
- PHOTOS
- STUDENTS
- CONTACT XAVIER

## ▶▶ ARE YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN?

In January, for the second year in a row, my Web site was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation as one of the very BEST in the House of Representatives, winning the prestigious Gold Mouse Award. Log on to <http://Becerra.House.Gov> to find out why!

### BECERRA BROADCASTS

Visit the 'Becerra Broadcasts' section of my Website to view video of my floor statements, town hall meetings, media appearances and more. This is the best way to hear and see how I am representing you in Congress. Here are just two samples of the videos available online:

Ways & Means Hearing	Health Care Congressional Forum
 <p>In this segment I question witnesses at a hearing of the Ways &amp; Means Committee on the economy and needed investments in infrastructure.</p>	 <p>Here I discuss health care policy with fellow members of the House in the second in a series of bipartisan "Congress Debates" forums.</p>



### THE DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION — FEBRUARY 17

On February 17, 2009, television broadcasters will begin airing exclusively digital signals and analog television sets that are not connected to a converter box, cable, or satellite will stop working. Families who receive their television signal over-the-air, using a traditional rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears," will have to acquire a new "digital to analog" converter box to ensure that their television sets can display the new digital signals. Television sets connected to cable or satellite service should not require a new converter box. Through the Department of Commerce every household is eligible for two \$40 coupons, each of which can be used toward the purchase of a converter box. It is exceptionally easy to apply for and receive your coupons online.

Simply visit <http://www.dtv2009.gov> and click "Apply for a coupon" link. The coupons will be shipped directly to you free of charge. Don't wait until the last minute to apply, as supplies may be limited. Consumers can also call 1-888-DTV-2009 to apply for the coupon. Feel free to contact my office at 213-483-1425 with any questions, or concerns you may have.

<http://Becerra.House.gov>

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

### DROP BY THE OFFICE OR GIVE ME A CALL

1119 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel: (202) 225-6235

1910 Sunset Blvd., #810  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Tel: (213) 483-1425



# Congressman Xavier Becerra

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT  
AND SERVING AS ASSISTANT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S NEWSLETTER • CALIFORNIA'S 31ST DISTRICT • WINTER 2008-09 • <http://Becerra.House.gov>



## GREAT CHALLENGES, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

Dear Friends:

Over the past two years the 110th Congress has begun to move America in a new direction by enacting a number of major new laws to rebuild our economy, strengthen our national security and restore accountability in government. I am proud of our successes – these are important first steps – but our country's current situation requires us to do even more.

America is facing one of the most daunting economic challenges in a generation. The growing economic crisis that we are facing threatens to imperil our nation's vitality and the world's economic security. The war in Iraq continues to add over \$2 billion a week to our national debt when more focus needs to be placed on fighting terrorism. Millions of our fellow citizens, children included, continue to live without health insurance. Poverty, unemployment and inflation are on the rise. The need for change could not be clearer.

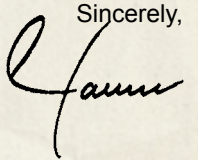
Big, bold changes are needed to overcome the historic challenges that we now face – starting with a true economic recovery package that puts the needs of working families and small businesses first while protecting taxpayers and responsible homeowners.

With renewed Democratic leadership in Congress and a new partner in the White House I am confident that we can finally make quality health care accessible to every American citizen. It is not only the right thing to do, it will help to stabilize the economy and stimulate growth.

Fresh presidential leadership will allow us to redeploy our troops from Iraq in a responsible manner, saving taxpayer dollars and freeing our military to pursue the real threats to our country.

With a renewed spirit of cooperation between Congress and the White House we will finally be able to set a course toward a clean energy independent future, creating millions of new jobs from the engineering lab to the factory floor in the process.

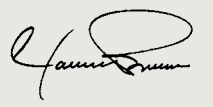
These are challenging times. But great challenges also present great opportunities for growth and change. Please join me in confronting these challenges as we work to take our country in a new direction.

Sincerely,  


XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress

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

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



M.C.  
PRST STD

# CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C.



## PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

Two years ago America opted to change course by bringing in a new Congress that would set a new direction for our country. Democratic leaders in Congress promised to raise the minimum wage, restore fiscal responsibility, cut college costs, protect Social Security and invest in energy independence. Despite persistent opposition and veto threats from the president, I am proud to say that we delivered on the major New Direction priorities that you asked for. Here are just a few key pieces of legislation enacted into law by this Congress:

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

- ★ **Now Law** >> **National Security:** 9/11 Commission recommendations.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Fuel Efficiency:** First new fuel efficiency standards in 32 years, historic commitment to renewable energy and American bio-fuels.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Energy Independence:** Tax incentives for clean renewable energy that will create and save more than 500,000 jobs.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Foreclosure Prevention:** Comprehensive housing reform to prevent families from losing their homes and stop the decline in home values.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Economic Stimulus:** Recovery Rebate checks to help 130 million American families with rising costs of food, gas, utilities, and consumer goods.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Unemployment Benefits:** Extended Unemployment benefits for 3.5 million Americans.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Minimum Wage:** First increase in the minimum wage in a decade from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Student Aid Increase:** Largest expansion of college aid in six decades, cutting loan rates in half and increasing Pell Grants.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Tax Relief:** A tax cut for 25 million middle-income American families facing the AMT in 2008.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **GI Bill for 21st Century:** New GI Bill to provide free college education to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ★ **Now Law** >> **Veterans Health:** Largest veteran health funding increase in history.

### Major House Initiatives Vetoed by the President or Filibustered in the Senate:

- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Ending the Iraq War:** Responsible redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq.
- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Children's Health:** Children's health insurance for 10 million children (SCHIP).
- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Stem Cell Research:** Expansion of life-saving Stem Cell Research.
- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Drug Prices:** Giving Medicare the authority to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices, saving seniors hundreds of dollars a year.
- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Equal Pay:** Fair Pay Act to ensure women are given equal pay for equal work.
- ⊖ **Vetoed** >> **Workers' Rights:** Employee Free Choice Act to restore workers' rights to organize.

This is impressive progress, but it is not enough. With our economy in turmoil and a new president headed to the White House the struggle to deliver fundamental change for America has only begun. There is much more work to be done in the 111th Congress.

## BECERRA-AUTHORED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT JOBS & SENIORS ENACTED INTO LAW

Since July three important pieces of legislation I authored were enacted into law. Although they may not capture headlines in the national press, these legislative victories will improve the lives of Americans of all ages.

### Medicare Savings Program Improvement Act

On July 15, Congress overrode the president's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, a major piece of legislation that included my bill, the Medicare Savings Program Improvement Act. This provision makes changes to the Medicare Savings Program allowing modest-income seniors to save more money and still qualify for assistance in paying their premiums, among many other improvements. This change is essential to allowing seniors to save money while not losing benefits.

### LIBRARIAN Act

On August 14 the president signed the Higher Education Opportunity Act into law. This comprehensive education bill included legislation I authored to provide student loan forgiveness to librarians who dedicate themselves to work in underserved communities. It authorizes up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness for librarians serving in communities of need for five years, encouraging college students to pursue a career in library service. This program addresses the growing shortage of librarians at a national level.

### Runaway Productions Prevention Act

On October 3 the president signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act into law. Included in the legislation was a bill I authored that aims to protect and create moviemaking jobs by attracting film and television production projects back to the United States. My provision strengthens incentives for producers to make movies in the U.S. by allowing an immediate tax write-off for the first \$15 million of production costs, or the first \$20 million of the cost of filming in distressed areas, regardless of the size of production. This provision levels the playing field for American film workers, from catering crews to set designers and editors, and will have a lasting and positive impact on Southern California's economy.

# THE DISTRICT DIGEST DISPATCHES FROM THE 31ST

## CASEWORK Corner

My casework staff has over 30 years combined experience in helping you secure the services and benefits for which your tax dollars pay. Since January of this year, we have helped more than 390 constituents resolve issues with federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), among others.

*To learn more about the Casework process in my office, please visit the "CONSTITUENT SERVICES" section of my Web site.*



## IMPROVEMENTS TO ENHANCE SAFETY, KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING AT SANTA MONICA AND WESTERN

In September I joined with L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti and local community members from the Santa Monica-Western neighborhood (see photo) to dedicate street improvements that will make it safer for pedestrians and less congested for drivers at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Western Avenue. The cost of the project was covered by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration I helped secure by working in close partnership with Council President Garcetti. Improvements include new signalized left-turn arrows, extended left-turn pocket lanes, and decorative crosswalks designed to call drivers' attention to pedestrians. The crosswalk pattern was selected with input from the Santa Monica Western Residents Group. These improvements, made possible by federal dollars, greatly enhance the safety and efficiency of this busy intersection.



## REP. BECERRA ADDRESSES AARP HEALTH CARE FORUM

On September 4, I participated in a town hall discussion organized by AARP, the nation's leading advocacy group for retired people, at Lincoln High School, where AARP founder Ethel Percy Andrus served as principal for 28 years. Hundreds of participants turned out to discuss the best ways to address the health care and long-term financial security needs of all Americans, young and old alike. At the end of the event I was presented with AARP's Legislative Achievement Award (see photo) by Sam Thomas, AARP Regional Volunteer Leader.



## "COFFEE WITH YOUR CONGRESSMAN" MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

As your representative in congress for the past 16 years, I have made it a priority to visit every neighborhood in the 31st District to seek out your thoughts and views on the issues of the day through my face-to-face "Coffee With Your Congressman" town hall meetings. Hundreds of district residents came out to at least one of the five "Coffees," like the one at Kingsley Elementary shown above, held throughout the district this year. I walk away from each "Coffee" proud of the thoughtful and well considered discussions that take place at each meeting. These lively conversations help me stay informed and aware of the issues important to you as we work to set a better course for our country in Congress. As we confront the worst economic crisis in a generation and other epic challenges it is more important than ever that you stay involved in the democratic process and give me your ideas for solving our problems. Thank you for taking the time to participate in these valuable meetings.

To learn more about Rep. Becerra's legislation, visit the 'Issues' section of his Web site: <http://Becerra.House.Gov>

To view video segments of past "Coffee" meetings, floor statements, press conferences, and many more events, visit the 'Becerra Broadcast' section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov>

