



**Week of October 4
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Issue 2

WASHINGTON SURF REPORT

Welcome to the Washington Surf Report! I hope you will find this report to be a useful tool in keeping up with the activities of the United States House of Representatives. This report will be updated every week so that you can follow the issues that are important to you. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the 50th Congressional District of California.



Congressman Bilbray enjoys Harbor Days and presents a donation to the San Diego Literacy Council.

NCTIMES.com Changing Culture Requires Reform
By: Brian Bilbray



San Diegans believe that the accountability and transparency they expect from their elected leaders has been replaced by backroom deals. When I left Congress in 2001, Congress had a balanced budget and a \$155 billion surplus. Today, that surplus has turned into a \$296 billion budget deficit. We need budget reform, and Congress must balance the books.

For months, the American people have been waiting for Congress to follow through on the promise to bring more transparency and accountability to the budget and earmark process. Congress has responded by taking a few first steps in the right direction but stopping well short of the definitive reforms that will make a lasting impact. No doubt, real reform is needed.

Wednesday, I introduced H.R. 6201, the Budget and Transparency Act of 2006. Recent years have seen Congress embrace a system that fosters waste, fraud and abuse, with special interests gaining too much influence in the budget and appropriations process. Funding decisions should be made in public view. The public has a right to know what is happening with its tax dollars.

Read the rest of the article that appeared in the *North County Times* by going to: http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/09/29/opinion/commentary/20_05_069_28_06.txt

Bilbray Pushes for Border Security Funding

Congressman Bilbray called legislation passed by the House of Representatives a good first step at addressing the problems created by illegal immigration. The next step is adopting strong interior enforcement measures and policies that punish employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Legislation supported by Congressman Bilbray included:

- \$2.27 billion for the border patrol including funds for an additional 1,500 new Border Patrol agents
- \$1.2 billion for border fencing, vehicle barriers, technology and infrastructure
- \$4.2 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- \$1.38 billion for ICE custody operations including the addition of 6,700 detention beds
- \$28.2 million to assist state and local efforts to enforce immigration law
- \$137 million for the Criminal Alien Program

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