January 9, 2017

Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Co-Chair, Special Committee on the
Office of the Attorney General
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Mark Stone
Co-Chair, Special Committee on the
Office of the Attorney General
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Attorney General

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer and Stone:

On behalf of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, it is our pleasure to write in strong support of the appointment of U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra as California's next Attorney General and we urge his swift confirmation to this critical office.

From Earl Warren and Pat Brown to Jerry Brown and Kamala Harris, our state has had many distinguished leaders fight for California’s interests as Attorney General. Whether Democrat or Republican our past Attorneys General have been zealous in their role as California’s legal counsel. As the state’s chief legal official, they have ensured that the laws of the state are uniformly and adequately enforced and as head of the Department of Justice they have proven responsible for providing state legal services and support for local law enforcement. Lastly, our Attorneys General have served us as chief counsel in state litigation. While all these roles are critical our next Attorney General will have the extraordinary responsibility of defending California’s laws, its policies and its very residents from federal intrusion – whether it be the incoming President, Congress or both. Thankfully, we find Rep. Becerra to be uniquely qualified for this awesome role given his impressive background.

The son of immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico, Rep. Becerra grew up in Sacramento and was the first in his family to graduate from college and law school. Since graduating from Stanford Law School he has taken a remarkable career path as both attorney and public servant. Indeed, over the past thirty years he has served honorably as a Deputy Attorney General, State Assembly Member and Member of Congress.

Though not a household name, Rep. Becerra has distinguished himself as a thoughtful, determined and prominent Member of Congress. While climbing the party ladder to become Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, he never forgot his constituents who first sent him to Washington DC at the tender age of thirty-four nor the myriad of issues that impact his multi-ethnic, working class district in East Los Angeles. The core issues that his constituents care about – immigration, health care access, income inequality, climate change, and civil rights – are also the concern of most Californians and they are under legal and political
attack from politicians in Washington DC.

Of particular interest to our caucus is Rep. Becerra’s lifelong commitment to those residents, the immigrant community, who only seek a better life for their family but have a deep seated fear of the draconian policies advocated by the President Elect and Congressional leaders. We have worked tirelessly over the years to promote policies that allow our undocumented residents to come out of the shadows and have proudly watched as other states have followed suit. If the federal government does challenge these measures and/or threatens to break up law abiding families who are simply pursuing the American Dream we will not sit idle. We need a champion with political, policy and legal bona fides to defend California’s values at the highest levels of the judiciary system. Who better to represent us than someone who knows these issues intimately and has been fierce advocate for progressive change throughout his career.

For all of these reasons we find Rep. Becerra ideally suited to serve as California’s next Attorney General. With so much at stake he is the right person to take on this role.

Thank you for your consideration of this strong Latino Caucus endorsement. Please do not hesitate to call us at (916) 651-1535 if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

BEN HUESO
Senator, 40th District
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER
Assembly Member, 80th District
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

c: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon