January 6, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairmen Jones-Sawyer and Stone,

I am writing to urge you to swiftly approve Congressman Xavier Becerra’s nomination to be the next California Attorney General.

In my experience dealing with Congressman Becerra, I have found him to be a man of the highest order. He was born in Sacramento, California, as the son of Mexican immigrants. He went on to graduate from Stanford University – my alma mater – in 1980, and was the first person in his family to graduate from college. He then studied law at Stanford, after which he worked on cases involving individuals with mental health conditions for the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts. He later worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice.

His career as a legislator is also distinguished, most recently serving as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

I have long admired Congressman Becerra’s fierce advocacy and intellect. He has been a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act and ensuring health coverage for millions of Californians. And it goes without saying that he has been a committed
advocate on behalf of Dreamers, including with his support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that was instituted under President Obama. He has further been a strong proponent of gun safety laws, which have helped significantly reduce California’s gun death rate over the past 20+ years.

The Constitution of the State of California sets forth that as the chief law officer of the State, it is “the duty of the Attorney General to see that the laws of the State are uniformly and adequately enforced.” I strongly believe that Congressman Becerra will fill this constitutional role on behalf of all Californians, and will do so with the utmost integrity, fair-mindedness, and work ethic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator