

REP. BECERRA VOTES AGAINST REPUBLICAN REPEAL OF HEALTH CARE RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives voted to repeal the health care rights enacted last year. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, voted against the repeal plan and made the following remarks on the floor of the House:

“I can understand why Americans might be confused about the direction of health care in this nation. But let me thank my Republican colleagues for producing one important result by debating this misguided plan to repeal patients' health care rights.

Millions of Americans are now beginning to understand the valuable rights and freedoms they secured when the Affordable Health Care Act became law last year.

Last year, when Erik, a self-employed architect in my district, wrote to me that he and his wife were in a terrible bind, he explained something. They had insurance, but they could only secure the most costly of insurance with the highest deductible.

But the real bind wasn't that. The real bind was that their insurance company refused to include within their health insurance policy their eight-year-old son because their son had suffered from a stroke.

Now for Erik and his wife and his son, health care reform was real. And today, Erik and his family can get insurance for their son because today, Erik and his wife have a right to be insured and to have their son insured because no insurance company today can discriminate against any child for a pre-existing condition.

That's what health care reform was all about.

It was also about making sure that today, America's businesses could afford to offer health insurance to their employees.

Health insurance reform was about reducing the cost of health care and that's why the impartial referee that we use here in Congress, Congressional Budget Office, has said that his health reform that was passed last year will save us money despite the rhetoric that you hear.

My republican friends say repeal. Do that today and in the future, we will restore those rights and make them prettier as well.

We have a bird in the hand. We don't want to go after two in the bush.

For twelve years they had control of the Congress. For six years they had a Republican President to work with and they never did it.

Keep that bird in hand and move forward for Erik and the rest of America."

