WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today the House of Representatives voted to pass legislation (H.R. 1230) that would grant oil companies access to more off-shore drilling leases without proper environmental review. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, voted against the measure and released the following statement:

"Working families all across America are paying the price for record high gasoline prices. In California, we are paying more than four dollars for a gallon of gas. Americans need relief at the pump, not another 'drill baby drill' plan. We cannot continue providing billions in tax subsidies to big oil companies that are making record profits. Our nation needs a fiscally responsible energy plan that closes tax loopholes for big oil companies and moves us toward a clean energy, independent future."