LOS ANGELES—In February of 2010, President Obama nominated U.C. Berkeley law professor Goodwin Liu to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. If confirmed, Professor Liu would be one of only two Asian Americans serving as a federal appellate judge in the United States – and the only Asian American judge on the Ninth Circuit, which has jurisdiction over an area that is home to more than 40 percent of our nation's Asian American population. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, released the following statement:

"Today's vote is long overdue. President Obama nominated Professor Goodwin Liu in February of 2010 for a seat that has now been left empty for more than a year. It shouldn't take the Senate a year to confirm a candidate like Professor Liu who is more than qualified to serve on the Court of Appeals. I urge the Senate to finally confirm Professor Liu as a federal judge to the Ninth Circuit."