

LOS ANGELES—Today the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision affirming the constitutionality of the historic health care law passed by the 111th Congress and signed into law by President Obama last year. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, praised the decision of the three judges who ruled on the case—two of whom were appointed to the court by Republican presidents George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan:

"The founding fathers wisely structured our constitution to allow the American people to make steady progress throughout history. The historic health care law makes progress in fixing our troubled health care system with a simple principle embraced by both parties and once again affirmed as constitutional: all Americans must take personal responsibility for their health care. The minimum coverage mandate simply says that you have a right to see a doctor when you get sick, but you do not have a right to make the American taxpayer foot the bill. I applaud the logical and reasoned decision made today re-affirming the constitutionality of the historic health care law."

Excerpts from today's ruling are below:

"We find that the minimum coverage provision is a valid exercise of legislative power by Congress under the Commerce Clause and therefore AFFIRM the decision of the district court."

"By regulating the practice of self-insuring for the cost of health care delivery, the minimum coverage provision is facially constitutional under the Commerce Clause for two independent reasons. First, the provision regulates economic activity that Congress had a rational basis to believe has substantial effects on interstate commerce. In addition, Congress had a rational basis to believe that the provision was essential to its larger economic scheme reforming the interstate markets in health care and health insurance."