

WASHINGTON—Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, released the following statement today to mark the 46th anniversary of the enactment of the Medicare program. President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare into law on July 30, 1965. He traveled to Independence, Missouri to sign the law so that he could do so in the presence of former President Harry Truman, who had also championed Medicare.

“Too many politicians have forgotten what life was like for America’s working families before the days of Medicare—before our seniors with disabilities had access to guaranteed, quality, affordable health care—when nearly half of those over the age of 65 went without health care coverage and nearly a third lived in poverty. Those days are behind us and hopefully they remain a distant memory.”

Our seniors can’t afford the House Republican plan to end Medicare and replace it with “Coupon Care”—a system where seniors get a voucher to buy private insurance—which would cut benefits and double seniors’ health care costs in the coming decade.

As America’s families are working hard to get through these trying times, Congress should strengthen Medicare, not end it. We can work together to guarantee Medicare is there for the next 46 years securing the well-being of those who built America.”