

WASHINGTON, DC—Today the House of Representatives voted 218 to 210 to pass Speaker John Boehner's Short Term Default Act (S. 627). Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, voted against the bill and released the following statement:

"America works when Americans are working. And the best way to reduce the deficit is to put millions of Americans back to work rebuilding our roads, bridges and crumbling schools.

Instead of focusing on the priorities of the American people—growing the economy, creating jobs and strengthening the middle class—the House majority has chosen to pursue an ideological agenda that could potentially jeopardize the full faith and credit of the United States.

Each time President Obama and Democratic leaders pursued a balanced, bipartisan solution to our debt and deficit problems, House Republicans walked away—but there's nowhere left to go. The American people and our economy are now teetering on the edge of a cliff.

This reckless course Republicans have set for our economy could immediately produce the same jobs-destroying consequences of a full default, including higher mortgage and student loan interest rates for every American and a credit downgrade for our government.

It's time to put aside our differences and work together to ensure the United States doesn't default on its bills for the first time in our history."