

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, released the following statement challenging deficit reduction proposals that would raise the retirement age for Social Security beneficiaries instead of allowing tax rates for the wealthiest two percent to return to the Clinton-era levels:

"Reducing the federal deficit shouldn't be a shell game. Yet, instead of focusing attention on the real drivers of the deficits – the unfunded Bush tax cuts, the economic recession, and the unpaid-for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – it seems some Republicans would rather cut Americans' hard-earned Social Security benefits by raising the retirement age. Social Security has never added a dime to the deficit and it shouldn't be used as a piggy bank to continue funding tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. Let's responsibly reduce the deficit – targeting the policies that caused it – not on the backs of seniors."