CRUZ REYNOSO
BAR ASSOCIATION

1425 River Park Drive, Suite 250 - Sacramento, CA 95815

January 9, 2017

Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer Sr., Co-Chair
California State Assembly
Special Committee on the Office of the Attorney General
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Mark Stone, Co-Chair
California State Assembly
Special Committee on the Office of the Attorney General
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: **Governor Jerry Brown Nomination of Congressman Xavier Becerra to Serve as California Attorney General**

Dear Assembly Members Jones-Sawyer and Stone:

The Cruz Reynoso Bar Association was formed to advance the cause of civil rights and to address issues impacting the Latino/Hispanic community, and is composed of distinguished lawyers and judges in Sacramento, including the Honorable Cruz Reynoso, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court (Ret.). We write to express our strong and unequivocal support for the confirmation of Congressman Xavier Becerra to serve as the next Attorney General of the State of California.

As the chief law officer of the State (Cal. Const. art. 5, § 13), the California Attorney General enjoys broad constitutional powers derived from the common law to advance the rights and interests of the State, to enforce all State laws and, significantly, to protect the public rights and interests of the People of our Great State. (See *Don Wilson Builders, et al. v. Superior Court* (1963) 220 Cal.App.2d 77, 81-82 citing *Pierce v. Superior Court* (1934) 1 Cal.2d 759 [where the California Supreme Court enunciated this critically important principle of the power and authority of the State Attorney General].)

As 2017 unfolds, our nation and State may be entering into a period that presents significant challenges to important values embedded in our State laws and policies, including immigrant rights and privileges, climate protection, consumer interests, and health care, to name a few. Our association can think of no California lawyer more suited – based on his legal experience as a former Deputy Attorney General, experience in the legislative branch, and deep understanding of the legal and policy principles that undergird these values – to carry out the duties and obligations of the chief legal officer of our State to assure that these values remain fully advanced and protected. Accordingly, we have every confidence in Congressman Becerra's commitment to devoting his proven skills and acumen to safeguard all public rights and interests of the People of California.

Finally, Congressman Becerra is a native of Sacramento who has worked with members of our organization for many years, who attest to his integrity, honesty, and dedication to public service.

We ask that you share our statement of support with your honorable colleagues on the Special Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of our input and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

George Acero,
President, Cruz Reynoso Bar Association

Cc: Cindy Morante, Special Committee Secretary
(via electronic mail [Cindy.Morante@asm.ca.gov])
Honorable Edmond G. Brown Jr., Governor, State of California
Honorable Xavier Becerra, U.S. House of Representatives (34th Cong. Dist., Cal.)