



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Congratulates Xavier Becerra on Being Confirmed as Health and Human Services Secretary

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas following the confirmation of Xavier Becerra as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services:

“NALEO Educational Fund congratulates Xavier Becerra on his Senate confirmation as the first Latino Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As our nation continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, HHS will require strong leadership to oversee a comprehensive approach to safeguarding the health of all our country’s residents – a type of leadership Secretary Becerra embodies with professionalism and resolve.

“As many experts have repeatedly told us, getting the pandemic under control is key to moving our nation to a place where it can prosper and thrive. This is why Secretary Becerra’s confirmation is a critical step toward restoring an HHS culture that values expertise, competence, and science in government – values that are critical to America’s robust recovery.

“Throughout his career as a veteran of Congress and Attorney General for the state of California, Secretary Becerra has been consistently at the forefront of protecting the integrity of the American healthcare system. In Congress, Secretary Becerra worked tirelessly to strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, and as California Attorney General, he led a national coalition to protect healthcare for over 20 million Americans. Secretary Becerra brings with him a robust track record of the necessary experience to lead HHS. These accomplishments, among others, are why the NALEO Board of Directors presented Secretary Becerra with its prestigious Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2015.

“We are living through one of the most dangerous periods in modern history – which is why we need proven leadership to help us get through the challenges we face. We are confident in the ability of Secretary Becerra to meet the moment and help lead us through it so that our nation can heal and thrive.”

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation’s leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.