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**CONTACT:** Nic Jordan, [nic@cisnerosforcongress.com](mailto:nic@cisnerosforcongress.com)

**RELEASE: Gil Cisneros Endorsed by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla**

**Fullerton, Calif.** – Today, Gil Cisneros, Fmr. Lieutenant Commander who is running for Congress in California’s 39th Congressional District, was endorsed by Secretary of State Alex Padilla. Secretary Alex Padilla is a former member and President of the Los Angeles City Council and former State Senator serving the 20th District.

“Gil Cisneros will fight to ensure the voices of the 39th congressional district are heard in Washington,” said **California Secretary of State Alex Padilla**. “From protecting access to quality healthcare to ensuring the ladder of opportunity is available to all, it has never been more important to elect leaders that stand up and fight for our values. Gil is the fighter we need in Congress, and I’m proud to endorse him.”

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of Secretary Padilla, whose work to increase voter registration and participation in elections has strengthened California and the engagement in our state,” said **Cisneros**. “I will stand up to President Trump in defense of our democratic institutions, and I will be a voice for the diverse communities in our district that have been historically underrepresented. While Young Kim continues to put special interests and serving the Trump administration ahead of families, I’ll continue to reach out and be a strong partner to not only the Latino community, but all communities in the 39th. I promise to fight to uplift all the hard-working people in our district and be the voice they need in Washington.”

The endorsement of **California Secretary of State Alex Padilla** adds to the growing list of elected officials and organizations who support Cisneros’s campaign, including **California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Congressman Ted Lieu and eighteen other Democratic members of Congress**, the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters, Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Los Angeles

County Professional Peace Officers Association, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice America, California Treasurer John Chiang, SEIU California, the Giffords Campaign to End Gun Violence, The Brady Campaign, California School Employees Association (CSEA), the California Democratic Party, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), UniteHere! Local 11, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, United Steel Workers, the Orange County Labor Fed, the LA County Labor Fed, the California Labor Fed, IBEW Local 11, LiUNA Local 562, women's rights champion Dolores Huerta, BOLD PAC, End Citizens United, the national Veterans advocacy organization VoteVets, and numerous local officials.

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*Gil Cisneros is a veterans and education advocate. During his service as a U.S. Naval Officer he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (2), the National Defense Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for his exemplary service to his country. Since leaving the Navy, he has continued to fight for our nation's veterans. Gil is a co-founder of The Gilbert & Jacki Cisneros Foundation, an organization committed to providing increased access to educational opportunities for our nation's students and veterans. Gil's dedication toward philanthropy began when he purchased a winning California Mega Millions lottery ticket in 2010. Gil's commitment to education led him to be appointed to former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative's advisory board, on which he still serves, and President Obama's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.*

*California's 39th Congressional District, split between Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties, is one of the most competitive districts in California. Hillary Clinton won the district by a whopping nine points, the DCCC labeled it a first-round target on its battlefield map and the Cook Political Report changed the district's status from Lean R to Toss Up.*

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Cisneros for Congress  
PO Box 40  
Placentia, CA 92871  
United States

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