WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding news that Iran has begun enriching uranium to 20%, the level at which it could set off a nuclear reaction:

"Iran says that it wants to be a responsible member of the international community, but continues to take actions that fly in the face of that promise. This weekend, we learned that Iran has begun enriching uranium, purportedly for civilian energy and medical use. I am concerned that if we allow Iran to enrich to twenty percent they will be able to produce weapons-grade uranium in little to no time.

"I am also concerned that Iran took the step to enrich uranium in the face of significant international opposition. Despite our best efforts, Iran's government has continually refused to engage the U.S. on this issue. As a result, I think we need to impose meaningful sanctions on Iran until it reciprocates our efforts to start a dialogue. This Congress and the international community have finally had enough."

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