WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), the ranking female member on the House Armed Services Committee, today issued the following statement supporting Congress' decision to apply additional sanctions against Iran over the country's nuclear weapons program:

“Applying strong sanctions against Iran is perhaps the most important thing Congress can do for the security of the United States. A nuclear-armed Iran threatens not only our own safety, but also regional stability in the Middle East and counter-proliferation efforts around the world. Unless President *Ahmadinejad decides to engage diplomatically, I believe* sanctions are our best hope for achieving a nuclear weapons-free Iran.”