WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today released the following statement condemning the California state legislature for considering using federal education funds to shrink the state's budget deficit:

"The state legislature has no right to balance its budget on the backs of California's teachers and children. The fact that $1.2 billion in funding for local school districts may be held hostage by state lawmakers is absolutely outrageous. I voted for these funds to help stop or reverse teacher layoffs – not to give politicians in Sacramento more money to raid.

"After years of fighting for Orange County schools, I know that education is the foundation of opportunity and the basis of our country's future success. Lawmakers must resist the temptation to make additional cuts to education funding. The state legislature has a right to get its fiscal house in order – but not at the expense of our children."