

June 27, 2006-Raising the Minimum Wage

Statement of Rep. Loretta Sanchez

ONE-MINUTE ON RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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Mr. Speaker, the disparity between the wealthiest Americans and the poorest continues to grow, fostered by the failed economic policies of this Republican Administration and Congress. Despite huge cost of living increases in gas prices, health care and higher education, Americans who work full-time at minimum wage jobs have not received a pay raise in nearly nine years.

While these hard working Americans struggle to support their families on just \$10,700 per year, Republicans in this body are fighting to give millionaires and huge corporations a tax break. Now they have even taken their misguided priorities to a new level - after voting in Committee for the Democratic measure to make a modest increase in the minimum wage, Republicans are now working to keep it from coming to the House floor for a vote.

Democrats plan to hold a vote on the minimum wage later today because we believe that expanding economic opportunity to seven million Americans who have been ignored for too long should be a priority.

It is time for the Republicans in this body to make working Americans their priority as well.