

December 7, 2006: Sanchez Supports Reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act

December 7, 2006

Sanchez Supports Reauthorization of Ryan White CARE Act

WASHINGTON- Today, Rep. Loretta Sanchez joined AIDS advocates and Democratic Members of Congress at a press conference in support of reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act.

Sanchez made the following statement:

Good Afternoon.

Today and tomorrow this Congress has the opportunity to reauthorize an important piece of legislation before the end of the 109th Congress.

Good Afternoon.

Today and tomorrow this Congress has the opportunity to reauthorize an important piece of legislation before the end of the 109th Congress.

The Ryan White CARE Act has provided critical care and treatment to low-income Americans living with HIV and AIDS since 1990.

Unfortunately, this important legislation expired a year ago and its reauthorization is overdue.

In the last year members and committees in both the House and Senate have worked very hard to draft a fair reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.

There has been a healthy debate over various provisions and eventually a compromise was reached and earlier this week it was passed by the Senate.

The 3 year compromise reauthorization succeeds in protecting funding for the regions that have historically been the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, while also directing funding to areas where HIV/AIDS is emerging in new communities.

I urge the House leadership to bring this compromise to the floor for a vote this week.

We have a responsibility to our constituents to take action on this important reauthorization.

At the beginning of 2005 it was estimated that about 1.1 million people in the United States were living with HIV/AIDS.

We must act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have access to life saving medical care and support services.

In my district The AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County California helps more than 1,500 men, women, and children who are living with HIV access the care and services they need.

The employees and volunteers at the AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County know how important reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act is, they support this compromise and so do I.

We must not let the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act die due to unrelated political games.

I urge the Energy and Commerce committee to allow the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization to come to House floor for a vote and I urge its passage.

Thank You.