

## May 2, 2007: Sanchez Supports Head Start

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez

Floor Statement in Support of H.R. 1429

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Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Head Start Program and I am encouraged by H.R. 1429, the Head Start Improvement Act of 2007.

I am a Head Start kid. I have first hand experience of the comprehensive education programs and opportunities that Head Start provides to low-income families.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by assisting with the social and cognitive development of young children. Research consistently identifies the early years of a child's development as ever more crucial to the child's lifetime success.

Many Head Start programs already try to incorporate new research into their strategies through education, health, nutrition, and social services. This bill ensures that local Head Start programs have the resources to undertake the best practices for furthering a child's development.

Head Start is about the family. As I received education and health services, my mother learned valuable lessons on how to become a more active and involved parent in America's public school system.

I am glad to see that this bill maintains the existing shared governance structure to help empower parents and allow programs to be responsive to local needs.

What's more, this bill is good for Head Start teachers. This bill takes the necessary steps to ensure that Head Start teachers' salaries and professional development are in line with the responsibility that we assign to them.

The Head Start Improvement Act of 2007 is a good bill that will keep Head Start strong so it can remain the great program that it was for me, and continues to be for so many Americans.