

July 27, 2007: Sanchez Votes to Make America More Secure

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Sanchez Votes To Make America More Secure:

House Approves 9/11 Bill

WASHINGTON—Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Vice-Chair of the Homeland Security Committee joined House Democrats in passing H.R.1, the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, by a vote of 371 to 40. Below are some highlights the legislation includes.

- Increases the amount of Homeland Security grant funding distributed based on risk
- Ensures that states receive \$3.38 billion over 5 years to provide all hazards preparation and response assistance
- Authorizes interoperability grant program at DHS for \$1.6 billion over 5 years
- Strengthens use of Incident Command System (ICS) and requires FEMA regional offices to work with state and local governments
- Improves intelligence and information sharing
- Strengthens efforts to prevent terrorist travel by working with international partners
- Ensures privacy and civil liberties
- Calls for improved tracking of dangerous cargo and requires all maritime cargo be scanned by 2012
- Requires 100% cargo screening carried by passenger aircraft and strengthens land transportation security
- Establishes a private sector voluntary certification program for preparedness

Sanchez, an appointed conferee for the bill submitted the following floor statement for the record:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you for your leadership on this critical legislation.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and a conferee on this legislation, I rise in strong support of the Conference report on HR 1, the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

This report implements several of the 9/11 Commission's key recommendations, including increasing the amount of Homeland Security grant funding that is distributed based on risk.

This extremely important change will ensure that the states at the highest risk for terrorist attacks will have the needed resources to prepare for and respond to attacks.

I am also particularly pleased that this report increases the authorized funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant program which provides all hazards preparedness funding to states.

I have been a long-time advocate of increasing EMPG funding, to ensure that all of our communities have the ability to prepare for any disaster, natural or man-made.

There are many other excellent provisions in this conference report, including the establishment of an office of appeals and redress at TSA and a Quadrennial Homeland Security Review of the national Homeland Security Strategy.

I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

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