

## April 24, 2008: Sanchez Amendment Agreed to in the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2008

Press Release

Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sanchez Amendment to Establish Sexual Assault Policy,

Surveys and Reports at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Sanchez Amendment Agreed to in the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, the House of Representatives passed the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 2830) that authorizes appropriations for the Coast Guard for Fiscal Year 2008. The bill includes an amendment authored by Sanchez that would require the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to establish comprehensive policies, training programs on sexual assault. The amendment will also require that the Academy conduct surveys to get feedback from the cadets and academy personnel about incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and the effectiveness of the academies' policies.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, Sanchez has championed comprehensive policies to reduce the incidence of sexual assault in the Armed Forces and military academies. In 2005, Sanchez included language in the FY06 Defense Authorization bill that would repeal Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and replace it with an improved sexual abuse statute modeled on the federal criminal code.

Below is Sanchez's statement in support of her amendment, as included in the Manager's amendment (as prepared).

"Thank you for yielding. I rise in support of the Manager's amendment and the underlying bill.

I'd like to thank Chairman Oberstar for including the Sanchez amendment in the manager's amendment.

My amendment will require the United States Coast Guard Academy to establish comprehensive policies, training programs, surveys and reports on sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or academy personnel.

Several years ago I added a similar amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill to require the military academies under the Armed Services Committee's jurisdiction to establish the same types of policies.

I am pleased that this amendment will ensure that all of our military service academies, including the Coast Guard Academy, will have plans for how to prevent sexual assault, and how incidents and allegations of sexual assault should be appropriately handled.

This amendment also requires the academy to conduct surveys to get feedback from the cadets and academy personnel about incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence, and the effectiveness of the academies' policies.

This amendment will help reduce the incidence of sexual assault and make our academies safer environments.

I urge my colleagues to support the manager's amendment. I yield back."

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