

June 4, 2008: 21st Century Green Public School Facilities Act

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

SUPPORT H.R. 3021, 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

June 4, 2008

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 3021, a bill that will help our local schools build the high-quality classrooms that our students deserve.

This responsible legislation, which we will consider today, provides for needed investments in public school facilities-- investments that will result in improved student performance.

Our nation's public school facilities are in disrepair. This is a disgrace and it impedes our students' ability to learn. Local education agencies want to improve their facilities, but they need our help.

With our younger students, we know that maintenance deficiencies create distractions - water dripping from the ceiling, chipping paint, and poor heating and cooling - these are all factors that cause students to lose focus.

And older students can not be prepared for the realities of the 21st Century when the 21st Century has not come to their classrooms.

These examples are not just anecdotal; there is firm evidence that improving the quality of school facilities improves student performance.

By failing to provide an environment appropriate for learning and teaching, we are sending our youth a message that their academic success is unimportant to us.

I hope my colleagues will vote with the best interests of the students in their districts and support this legislation.