

## November 14, 2002- Sanchez Statement on New Democratic Leadership

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WASHINGTON, D.C. &mdash;Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) made the following statement about today&rsquo;s Democratic elections:

&ldquo;I&rsquo;d like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to two of my colleagues, Nancy Pelosi and Robert Menendez for their victories in today&rsquo;s Democratic Leadership elections.

&ldquo;The selection of these two visionary legislators to top positions within the House Democratic delegation is a great victory for our party. As the first woman and Hispanic to hold these posts, they are a true representation of the American people and the future of politics in our country.

&ldquo;I have had the honor of working closely with both of them through my past work with the Democratic Caucus, the California Delegation and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Not only do both bring a fresh, innovative perspective to the table, they will seek to communicate the core Democratic values that I believe will be of critical importance to our nation in the coming years.

&ldquo;These were hard fought victories. I am particularly heartened by the significant Blue Dog support that both received. In fact, when I had the pleasure of casting my vote for Bob Menendez, I did so together with a fellow Blue Dog member&mdash;with whom I had been working very hard to convince to vote our way. In the end we both cast our votes for the future of our party.

&ldquo;It will be a privilege to continue to work closely with the new Democratic leadership as colleagues and as friends.&rdquo;