

## March 31, 2003- Sanchez Named Ranking Democrat to Homeland Security Subctte

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Orange County Congresswoman takes top post on Infrastructure and Border Security Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. &ndash; Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez was named as the Ranking Minority Member of the Infrastructure and Border Security Subcommittee as part of her duties on the Select Committee on Homeland Security. She will also serve on the Committee&rsquo;s Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development Subcommittee.

&ldquo;These Subcommittees not only identify critical target responsibilities of the Committee, they point out the massive job we have before us,&rdquo; said Sanchez. &ldquo;Above all, the top priority for this Committee is to make sure that the American people are safe here at home. It is my hope that we will work swiftly to safeguard the nations against potential acts of terrorism and provide resources to those on the front lines charged with that task.&rdquo;

The exact jurisdiction of the Infrastructure Subcommittee is border security, including prevention of importation of illicit weapons, pathogens, narcotics, and other contraband; illegal entry by foreign nationals; land borders, ports, and airspace; integration of federal, state, and local immigration law enforcement; protection of highways, bridges, waterways, airports and air transportation, energy supplies, and other critical infrastructure from attack; preservation of critical government, business, and financial institutions; relevant oversight; and other matters referred to the Subcommittee by the Chairman.

The Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development Subcommittee will oversee security of computer, telecommunications, information technology, industrial control, electric infrastructure, and data systems, including science, research and development related thereto; protection of government and private networks and computer systems from domestic and foreign attack; prevention of injury to civilian populations and physical infrastructure caused by cyber attack; relevant oversight.

Sanchez plans to make various site visits to better understand the homeland security needs of those organizations and locations most at risk. She also plans to hold field hearings in California to obtain testimony for future Congressional activities. For more information on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, visit <http://homeland.house.gov>.