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Amendment to fund critical HS projects shut out by Republicans

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D CA) went before the House Rules Committee to request the addition of an amendment to direct a minimal amount of funds from the Republican Tax Cut Bill to critical national Homeland Security projects. The Committee, on a party-line vote, refused to allow the Sanchez amendment to be considered for debate on the House floor.

This amendment would have requested that seven-tenths of one percent of the overall tax bill be redirected. This equates to about \$4 billion and would be achieved by delaying the implementation of the dividend portion of the tax cut by just one year.

“We are, without a doubt, still living in a dangerous time,” said Sanchez. “Our borders remain vulnerable and our war on terror is only beginning. Surely a request that will have such a dramatic positive effect on securing our homeland, while representing such a small fraction of this proposed tax package, warrants consideration by the full House of Representatives.”

The Sanchez Amendment did not make it to the House floor for debate or vote. It was rejected by the Republican-controlled Rules Committee along with many other amendments to give much needed resources to the law enforcement and emergency services community.

“We are asking our front line first responders to bear the fiscal burden of stepping up the security of our nation, yet we are not providing them the resources they need to be successful,” added Sanchez.