

May 04, 2004- California Members of Congress Call for More Section 8 Vouchers

May 3, 2003

For Immediate Release Rep. Sanchez Joins California Members of Congress
in Call for Additional Section 8 Voucher Funding

WASHINGTON--Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez has joined fellow Members of the California Congressional Delegation in calling on the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to increase Section 8 Housing voucher funding. Earlier this year, President Bush asked that Section 8 funding be cut for FY 05 and last month, HUD announced that the program would only be funded at FY 03 levels .

=====
=====
Alphonso Jackson
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, we are concerned that a new HUD ruling on Section 8 vouchers may retroactively eliminate funding to support many families in California and across the United States.

In FY 2003, congressional appropriations for HUD included full funding for all existing Section 8 voucher. Congress made an additional appropriation of \$1 billion in FY 2004 to protect all families with Section 8 vouchers. However, on April 22, 2004 HUD notified voucher administrators that it will fund Section 8 vouchers only at 2003 levels. HUD's ruling will, in effect, cause a funding shortfall for our state's public housing authorities. It could also potentially force some of California's 300,000 families and children who have authorized Section 8 vouchers out of their homes. In addition, HUD's ruling will likely increase rent levels of voucher holders and decrease maximum rents covered by a voucher.

We strongly believe that HUD should rescind the April 22nd notice and restore full funding for the Section 8 voucher program. This new rule, coupled with President Bush's proposal to cut voucher funding sharply in FY05 and convert the program to a block grant, would significantly undermine the ability of some Californians to afford adequate shelter.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and response to our letter.