



**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1350, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. LORETTA SANCHEZ OF
CALIFORNIA**

In section 665(b)(2)(I) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (as proposed to be amended by section 401 of the bill), add at the end before the period the following: “, including to train school safety personnel and first responders who work at qualified educational facilities”.



Loretta Sanchez Amendment to H.R. 1350

It is conservatively estimated that nearly 400,000 people in the U.S. today have some form of autism. Its prevalence rate now places it as the third most common developmental disability - more common than Down's syndrome. The majority of the public, including many school safety professionals and first responders, are still unaware of how autism affects people and how to work effectively with individuals with autism. To date, there is no known cure.

Autism interferes with the normal development of the brain in the areas of reasoning, social interaction and communication skills. The disorder makes it hard for them to communicate with others and relate to the outside world. They may exhibit repeated body movements (hand flapping, rocking), unusual responses to people or attachments to objects, and resistance to changes in routines. In some cases, aggressive and/or self-injurious behavior may be present.

The Loretta Sanchez amendment would include language in the bill that would authorize the use of funds to develop and improve programs to train school safety personnel and first responders who work at educational facilities in the recognition of autism.