

along with the support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and a bipartisan coalition of Representatives from across the United States.

If enacted, it would address the loophole in our nation's drunken-driving laws that enables repeat DUI offenders to be charged and tried; as first-time offenders because of inconsistent reporting.

Currently, when police make a drunk driving arrest, they don't always have access to information about all of the driver's previous arrests for driving under the influence.

The reason is because not all police report DUI arrests to either the National Crime Information Center, or "NCIC" for short, or the Next Generation Identification database, or "NGI," which are the national crime databases that can be made instantly available to police right from their patrol cars.

The consequences of this lack of reporting can prove tragic. Just a few years ago there was a terrible accident in northern Mississippi, just outside of my Congressional District. Two teenagers from Memphis were killed when the car they were driving was struck by a drunk driver who had accrued seven DUI charges since 2008 and had been allowed to plead guilty five times to a first-offense DUI.

When the law enforcement officer ran the suspect's driving record in the national database, his past DUI convictions never showed up.

This is shameful. A DUI somewhere should be recognized as a DUI anywhere. It should not matter where you were caught driving drunk. If you drive drunk, previous offenses should be recorded and penalties should increase so innocent lives can be saved.

The accrual of multiple first-time DUI offenses is unconscionable and must be brought to an end.

Our bill will save lives by enacting common-sense, bipartisan reforms to harmonize reporting standards for DUI offenses across the states.

I urge my colleagues to help pass it quickly.

SALUTING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JONATHAN DOS SANTOS RAMÍREZ

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Jonathan dos Santos Ramírez for his many positive contributions to Los Angeles and beyond, both as a prominent soccer player and as an active member of the community.

Jonathan was born April 26, 1990, in Monterrey, Mexico, as the youngest of three children born to Gerardo Francisco dos Santos and Lilianna Ramírez. A member of FC Barcelona's famed youth academy system, La Masia, Jonathan made his eventual debut with the senior team as a 19-year-old during a match in Spain's Copa del Rey. He remained in Barcelona through 2014, making 29 appearances in all competitions, including matches played in the UEFA Champions' League, La Liga Super Copa, and the Copa del Rey.

In 2014, Jonathan transferred to Villarreal CF in La Liga, where he developed into one of Spain's standout midfielders. During his

time with the club, he has made over 120 appearances in all competitions, while scoring seven times and adding eight assists. Internationally, he has made 29 appearances in all competitions as a member of the Mexican National Team, including matches in FIFA World Cup Qualifying and the FIFA Confederations Cup.

Jonathan's extraordinary soccer career, and his hard work to reach his goals, are an inspiration to young people around the world. As a new member of the Los Angeles Galaxy, he has become an incredible role model throughout Southern California.

Jonathan joined the Galaxy as the team's third Designated Player on July 28, 2017, and plays alongside his brother, Giovanni dos Santos Ramirez. Since joining the Galaxy, Jonathan's passion for giving back has inspired his many philanthropic efforts in the LA community. In July 2017, he and Giovanni hosted a community soccer clinic based on the values and techniques they have learned during their careers. The brothers wanted to contribute to the educational and athletic development of aspiring low-income young soccer players by shaping their skills, instilling virtues such as respect, humility, and teamwork, and setting them on a path to success.

On March 17, 2018, Jonathan will once again support the community and appear for his fans in South Gate, California, to support the biggest Soccer Community Tournament in Los Angeles County history. The tournament is being hosted by the largest Latin regional record label, DEL Records, a company headquartered in Bell Gardens in my 40th Congressional District.

Jonathan Dos Santos Ramirez has shown exemplary commitment to the people of Los Angeles and beyond, and I am pleased to recognize his work as an athlete and philanthropist. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his varied contributions and positive impact.

SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL: RACISM AND POVERTY 50 YEARS AFTER THE KERNER REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman EVANS for anchoring this very important Special Order on the subject of the famous Kerner Commission Report and the persistence of economic inequality and poverty in America.

Together, we stand, firmly committed to combating poverty.

Poverty in America reaches into all regions of the country, urban and rural, and affects millions of persons of all races, ethnicities, creed, ages, and gender.

However, it seems that far too often, and for far too long, the African American community has been disproportionately disadvantaged.

Three years ago we marked the 50th anniversary of the Watts Rebellion in Los Angeles, which was followed in the succeeding two years by the long hot summers and outbreaks of civil unrest in Detroit, Newark, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Gary, Indiana.

The 1967 civil unrest and disturbances in Detroit and Newark prompted President Lyndon Johnson to establish the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, an 11-member commission, chaired by Illinois Governor Otto Kerner.

The mandate of the Kerner Commission was to identify the underlying cause of the civil unrest in communities across the country.

On February 29, 1968, following several field trips to troubled communities, the Commission released its 176-page report that examined cultural and institutional racism, from segregated schools and housing discrimination to generational poverty and limited economic opportunity.

The Kerner Report brought attention to the racial tension and divide that communities of color were facing nationwide.

It is important to recall two of the more important conclusions of the Kerner Report.

First, the Commission concluded that:

"Discrimination and segregation have long permeated much of American life; they now threaten the future of every American. This deepening racial division is not inevitable. The movement apart can be reversed. Choice is still possible. Our principal task is to define that choice and to press for a national resolution. To pursue our present course will involve the continuing polarization of the American community and, ultimately, the destruction of basic democratic values."

Second, the Commission concluded that:

"No American—white or black—can escape the consequences of the continuing social and economic decay of our major cities. Only a commitment to national action on an unprecedented scale can shape a future compatible with the historic ideals of American society."

The Kerner Commission called for bold policies to counter decades of political failure, such as investment in much-needed social services, housing, and education programs and incentivizing diversity among law enforcement.

In the wake of the upheaval, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 outlawing housing discrimination was signed into law.

Consequently, the past 50 years have seen the most progress towards equality than any point in our nation's history.

Over the last five decades, African Americans have seen substantial gains in high school completion rates.

High school graduation rates are up to 92.3 percent.

College graduation rates have also improved for African Americans.

Among 25–29-year-olds, less than one in 10 (9.1 percent) had a college degree in 1968, a figure that has climbed to almost one in four (22.8 percent) today.

Over the same period, however, college completion expanded for whites at a similar pace, rising from 16.2 percent in 1968 to 42.1 percent today, leaving the relative situation of African Americans basically unchanged: in 1968 African Americans were just over half (56.0 percent) as likely as whites to have a college degree, a situation that is essentially the same today (54.2 percent).

America has made some improvements, but African Americans continue to face some of the same obstacles identified in the Kerner Report.

The unemployment rate for African Americans in 2017 (the last full year of data) was