

Shenzhou Preaching Team), Minister Wang Xiao (Henan Dongguocun Church).

Pastor Zhu Jiahao (Wenzhou Shenzhou Preaching Team), Minister Xinyi Chuandao (Datong Lirenzaio Church), Minister Zhao Lihui (Datong Lirenzaio Church), Pastor Lin Jinlian (Wenzhou Shenzhou Preaching Team), Pastor Yan Xiaojie (Wenzhou Shangjiang Church), Minister Chen Jiafu (Chen Dawei) (Fuzhou Boteli Reformed Church), Pastor Du Youchang (Jingmen Ganlanshan Church), Pastor Wang Yongcheng, Elder Feng Guangxiong (Shen Ai Shi Ren Fengshou Church), Pastor Ruan Dawei (Zhanjiang Gengxin Church), Minister Guan Xinyuan (Jiangsu Liyang Family Church), Minister Zhao Ruohan (Henan Xihuo Church), Minister Sun Chanli (Hubei Shiyang Rongguang Biliya Church), Elder Li Youhong (Chengdu Shengming Zhi Quan Church), Elder Yan Xixia, Elder Su Bingsen, Elder Li Yingqiang, Elder Tan Defu, Minister Zhang Xudong, (Chengdu Early Rain Covenant Church).

HONORING WENDY ZAPATA WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wendy Zapata as a woman of the year. She is a well-known as a community leader, mentor, activist and small business owner. In 2012, she and her sister established the NorCal Assets Solutions which aims to provide Medicare Planning, Long Term Care alternatives, Safe Retirement, and importantly educates individuals on making informed choices to save for their future through a variety of resources. Ms. Zapata is instrumental in serving her community and annually organizes open workshops such as the Senior Resource Fair to inform the community about resources and organizations available to them. As a member of the Soroptimist International, Ms. Zapata generously dedicates her time to better the status of women and girls in the community by encouraging social and economic empowerment for women. She is especially passionate about organizing and supporting local community events to ensure their success and further assist individuals in her community. Her passion for volunteerism is evident from her role in organizations such as United Way, the Alzheimer's Association, Marysville Stampede, Alliance for Hispanic Advancement, Adventist Fairway to Golf, and many more. Wendy Zapata is known within her community to be hard-working, kind, and a leader with integrity. She aims to make a positive difference and her contributions to the community cannot be overstated.

RAISING AWARENESS OF NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Bullying Prevention

Month, a nationwide campaign held during the month of October to provide efforts in uniting communities to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.

As a Co-Chair of the House Congressional Children's Caucus, member of the Mental Health Caucus, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I have been saddened by one episode after another of children losing their lives and the lack of a coordinated response to incidents of bullying.

In September of 2018, the Jackson Lee Anti-Bullying bill, H.R. 68, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization Act was passed by the House.

This legislation makes positive steps toward reform in juvenile justice and targets bullying and bullying prevention.

This bill: targets bullying and bullying prevention; reauthorizes the award of grants to consider this problem in the amount of \$30 million for one year; and, subjects grants to accountability measures: the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Justice (DOJ) must conduct annual audits of selected grant recipients and the Department of Justice must submit an annual certification to Congress and identify and report on duplicative grant awards.

In October of 2015, I held an Anti-Bullying Town Hall Hearing in my district where over 40 witnesses—organizations, experts, bullying victims, and even bullies themselves—came out and shared their stories and experiences.

National Bullying Prevention Month was founded by the PACER Center's National Bullying Prevention Center, this campaign has been recognized by school communities all over the United States, for the past 12 years.

Bullying is defined as the use of repetitive aggressive behavior such as force, intimidation, threat, or abuse, which depicts an imbalance of power, socially or physically.

Studies show that at some point in a child's life, they experience bullying in some capacity, no matter what form.

No single factor puts a child at risk of being bullied or bullying others.

Time and time again, the root causes of bullying are racial, gender, sexual orientation, and religious discrimination.

Justification for this matter shows that when children perceived as different are not in supportive environments, they are more prone to being bullied.

Bullying based on religious differences tend to be the result of misinformation or spreading of negative perceptions on how an individual expresses their belief.

American schools harbor approximately 2.1 million bullies and 2.7 million of their victims.

Derrin Bridges, a 13-year-old boy from Kansas City, Missouri, was bullied and held at gunpoint by a 17-year-old.

Derrin who was noted to be on the autism spectrum, was severely mistreated; he was verbally assaulted with racial slurs, he was physically beaten, and money was stolen from him.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Darren Bridges, his loving mother, Emily Bridges, and the rest of his family.

This type of disheartening experience can affect a child for a lifetime.

It is important to note that a significant increase in bullying rates is due to the prevalent use of technology among teens.

The internet enables information to spread far and wide across the globe with the click of a button.

It is estimated that in 2011, approximately 2.2 million students experienced cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that happens over any digital device.

This consists of sending and posting negative, presumptuous, or harmful content about someone else, as well as sharing private information about someone in aim to cause humiliation.

Social media is an avenue that children and teens can easily access and use to engage in cyberbullying.

Sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and YouTube, are all platforms where the risk of cyberbullying is prevalent.

With easy access to an individual's page, users gain the ability to search and post discreditable information anonymously about anyone.

Bullying is now increasingly viewed as a contributor to the inflexed rates of suicide amongst youth.

It can leave a harsh toll on those affected, causing lasting impacts on mental health, substance use and suicide.

In 2016, Brandy Vela, an 18-year-old high school resident of my Congressional district, took her own life after experiencing relentless cyberbullying.

Brandy was a beautiful young lady, who was friendly and all around well-liked by her schoolmates.

Despite all the love given to her from friends and family, she took her own life due to the threats and messages she would continuously receive online, causing her to feel worthless.

I cannot fathom the sorrow that the Vela family endured at that time.

Brandy's memory lives on through her family and friends along with all those who work tirelessly to exterminate bullying.

The American youth witnesses bullying at least once a day.

Suicide rates solely among 10 to 14 year olds have grown more than so percent over the last three decades.

It is important that we act promptly to prevent such instances from happening; many of the deadly cases of bullying arise when children are teased and tormented simply for being different.

Our children are our future hence they must be our first priority.

HONORING SHERIFF RICHARD CUTTING AND UNDERSHERIFF MICHAEL BADGER ON THEIR RETIREMENTS

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2018*

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both Sheriff Richard Cutting and Undersheriff Michael Badger on their retirements from the Essex County Sheriff's Department.

After two years of service with the United States Marine Corps, Sheriff Cutting joined the Essex County Sheriff's Department in 1977 as a Deputy Sheriff. He became the first Essex