

move forward from here in terms of gender equality. Title IX guarantees the civil right to learn free from discrimination, retaliation, and sexual violence. This victory is something that every student, parent, and educator can celebrate today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING ALIANA
SONKSEN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aliana Nicole Sonksen, a rising senior at Camdenton High School in Camdenton, Missouri, who won third place in the National Institute of Health's Addiction Science Competition. This prestigious award was given at the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair is the world's largest international science competition for high school students, and this year it provided a forum for approximately 1,500 students from 70 countries, regions, and territories to showcase their independent research. Since 2008, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has selected three projects to receive awards for exemplary work in addiction science, and I am extremely proud that a winning project came from the hard work and dedication of one of my constituents.

Ms. Sonksen's project, "Determining the Behavioral and Physiological Effects of Pentadone-Based Bath Salts on *Drosophila Melanogaster*," studied the effects of two versions of the drugs called "bath salts" on the common fruit fly. She looked at three possible effects: mortality, feeding patterns, and activity levels. Many of the flies died from exposure to bath salts, and many others decreased their feeding activity. Her research showed that the substances, while commonly considered stimulants, acted more like hallucinogens, with the flies appearing to be in a daze.

I am proud that Ms. Sonksen not only took the time and energy to submit an award winning project but also focused her efforts on such an important issue. Bath salts are emerging synthetic stimulants that often contain amphetamine-like chemicals. Addiction and abuse of these drugs has dramatically increased over the past few years and has resulted in a number of hospitalizations and even deaths. I appreciate the awareness Ms. Sonksen has raised to the issues surrounding bath salts through her research and submission of her project.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Aliana Sonksen's Addiction Science Award and her hopeful future of contributing to addiction science for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 51 of the best and brightest students in North Texas who have participated in the Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC), a program I started nearly 9 years ago. CYAC has two primary goals. One, to hear the voices of our future generation and gain insight on issues our youth values, and two, to educate our students on how government policies directly impact their lives and our nation.

Each year, the students in CYAC exceed my expectations ten-fold. They bring innovative, inspiring, and impacting ideas on how to build a better America now and in the future. Their impressive credentials speak for themselves. Participating in student government, community service, honor societies, school athletics, fine arts, and language clubs exemplifies their educational excellence and steadfast commitment to our community as they discover their individual potential. Each time we meet, I am privileged to hear from these dedicated leaders who embody the best of their generation. They are the future of our country and will continue to define what it means to be an American.

Over the past year, each student heard from prominent civic leaders, engaged in discussion about current events and the role of government, and developed their own community service project. I am proud to see our Third District students dedicate their time and talents to serving the people around them. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come. America and North Texas will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2012–2013 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for volunteering your time and efforts to this council. You have been the voices of your generation to Congress this past year, and have done an extraordinary job. I wish you continued success in your upcoming endeavors and know I am very proud of you.

The names of students serving on the 2012–2013 CYAC follow:

Arthur Anderson, Natasha Blaskovich, Rhian Burnham, Bryce Clark, Andrew Cook, Mark Douglas, Megan Eakin, Noah Eldridge, William Elliot, Rakshana Govindarajan, Shivan Gupta, Grace Han, Lauren Hebig, Hogan Heritage, Sara Nabila Hossain, Aileen Huang, Samuel Huang, Mackenzie Jenkins, Lane Johnson, James Kay, Sarah Killian, Shane Kok, Justin Kong, Jonathon Lara, Candice Lee, Jessica Lightfoot, Connor Madden, Malika Maheshwary, Soumya Mandava, Jessica Martinez, Emily Means, Sarah Michaels, Sydney Patterson, McKay Paxman, Jacob Przada, Jason Randoing, Daniel Rosenfield, Kinnari Ruikar, Daniel Saiyid, Sam Schell, Brian Simpson, Travis Smith, Ryan Snitzer, Sarah Stanley, Hunter Stevens, Simic Tuan, Jessica Todd, Matt Waller, Hannah Wood, Carlie Woodard, Lisa Michales

God Bless You and I salute you!

CONTINUING REPRESSION BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by recognizing the many distinguished leaders who are joining us in conjunction with the Vietnamese-American Meetup. Many thanks to all of you for taking the time to come to Washington to meet with your representatives here in Congress, and for joining us for the hearing my subcommittee held which looked at some of the many human rights abuses being committed by the Vietnamese Government.

The hearing was the second held by my subcommittee this year on human rights in Vietnam. We had a greater, in-depth, examination of some of the fundamental human rights violations that we discussed at our first hearing in April, particularly land confiscations in the context of religious and ethnic persecution.

Although the relationship between the United States and Vietnam improved substantially in 1995 when relations were normalized, the human rights situation in Vietnam did not improve. As the U.S. has upgraded Vietnam's trade status, the Vietnamese Government has continued to violate a wide range of fundamental human rights.

To cite just one example, despite the State Department's decision in 2006 to remove Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular Concern as designated pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act, Vietnam continues to be among the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. According to the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom's 2012 Annual Report, "[t]he government of Vietnam continues to control all religious communities, restrict and penalize independent religious practice severely, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging its authority." USCIRF concludes that Vietnam should be designated a CPC country.

It appears the State Department decided to allow political considerations to trump the facts and the brutality of Vietnam's record of religious persecution. In the Department's latest International Religious Freedom Report that was released on May 20th, Vietnam once again was a glaring omission in the list of Countries of Particular Concern. Compared to the disturbing clarity of the USCIRF report, the State Department's description of the state of religious freedom in Vietnam is a whitewash, and an extreme disservice to the truth about the religious persecution that is prevalent in that country. I repeat my past appeals to the Administration to follow the letter as well as the spirit of the International Religious Freedom Act, and hold Vietnam to account as a Country of Particular Concern.

I met courageous religious leaders during my last trip to Vietnam who were struggling for fundamental human rights in their country. Unfortunately, many of them, including Father Ly and the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do, remain wrongly detained today. There are disturbing reports that Father Ly is suffering poor health. Leaders of religious organizations are not the only ones victimized by the Vietnamese government on account of their faith;