

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ONGOING  
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREEK  
AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON A  
UNIFIED CYPRUS

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of the ongoing negotiations in Cyprus between Greek and Turkish Cypriots that would bring about a peaceful resolution to the dispute on a unified Cyprus. On February 24, 2014, Greek Cypriot negotiator, Andreas Mavroyiannis, and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Kudret Ozersay, resumed talks in what the United Nations has deemed as "substantive discussions." This is promising news and it is my hope that these talks will mark the first, new steps toward a final settlement that will achieve a unified Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus has endured a long history of ethnic and religious battles between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. While Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities remain divided, with the latter isolated from the international community, a unified Cyprus has much to offer to the region and global community. A peacefully unified Cyprus would see increased tourism, exchanges of close culture ties, expanded trade opportunities, and a new and stable source of energy. Additionally, a unified Cyprus would create a state and society that protects the rights of all its citizens and help establish a sound government that reflects its rightful place in Europe.

During a phone call with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President Barack Obama thanked the Prime Minister for his role in reviving negotiations. Turkey's leadership in bringing this conflict to an end is welcomed during this time of heightened intensity in the region. Any resolution agreed to should emulate the UN mission in Cyprus' declaration that a settlement "will be based on a bi-communal, bizonal federation with political equality." I ask my colleagues to join me in encouraging both parties to see past the roadblocks that have held back progress and redouble their efforts as they move forward on a solution. Likewise, I hope the Obama Administration will continue to use its influence to push for a swift resolution on the Cyprus question.

I stand with all Cypriots—in both communities—who seek to build a better Cyprus together.

HONORING PETER AND LISA  
VERNIERO FOR THEIR PUBLIC  
SERVICE

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service of Lisa and Peter Verniero, the 2014 honorees of the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness.

I have known the Vernieros for a generation and I can attest that their recognition as the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness honorees is well-earned. Together, Lisa and Peter have a remarkable tenure of service to

Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey.

Lisa is a devoted advocate for those who benefit from the mission of SAFE in Hunterdon. She is a thoughtful, caring and determined leader who has helped craft and sustain SAFE in Hunterdon as well as a generous benefactor, fundraiser and organizer to help provide the resources for this success.

Peter is a public servant whose tenure as New Jersey State Attorney General and Justice of the State Supreme Court was marked with dedication to serving all of our residents, including those most in need. His efforts to protect children and victims of crime and sexual abuse were landmark examples of good judgment, important public policy and justice under the law. Peter also recently served on the New Jersey SAFE Task Force on Gun Protection, Addiction, Mental Health and Families that examined the root causes of violence and made recommendations to help improve the situation.

Lisa and Peter are committed to doing their part to break the cycle of abuse and empower survivors, their families and all victims of crime through the support networks that have helped construct. Their advocacy is just one example of the fine public servants who support SAFE in Hunterdon and the community of compassion that exists for those who need it most.

IN SUPPORT OF "NATIONAL DE-  
VELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH"

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 27th observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Developmental disabilities may be visible or invisible and range from physical impairment that involves vision or mobility to those conditions that affect cognitive functions related to how the brain processes information or how someone learns.

Developmental disabilities include: autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays have increased, requiring more health and education services.

Everyone is on a continuum that moves us from ability to disability in one aspect or another. Through age, accidents, or illness, the healthy can become disabled.

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that are recognized in children from birth until age 22.

The effects of development disabilities will last a lifetime.

From birth to 5 years, a child should reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move.

Tracking a child's development for signs that they are not reaching key milestones in development is critical for early diagnosis and interventions that can help children.

People with developmental disabilities have problems with language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living.

About one in six children in the U.S. have one or more developmental disabilities or other developmental delays.

A Center for Disease Control study of 119,367 children aged 3–17 found that boys had a higher prevalence for a certain developmental disabilities when compared with girls.

In the CDC study, parents or legal guardians were asked if their child had: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, blindness, cerebral palsy, moderate to profound hearing loss, intellectual disability, learning disorders, seizures, stuttering/stammering, and other developmental delay.

Hispanic children had the lowest prevalence of developmental disabilities when compared with non-Hispanic white and black children.

Prevalence of any developmental disability increased from 12.84 percent to 15.04 percent over the past 12 years. Autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays increased, whereas hearing loss showed a significant decline.

When developmental disabilities go misdiagnosed, undiagnosed, or untreated the capacity of our nation's children to reach their full potential is undermined.

The prevalence of any Developmental Disability in 1997–2008 was 13.87 percent. Prevalence of learning disabilities was 7.66 percent; prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was 6.69 percent; prevalence of other developmental delay was 3.65 percent; and, prevalence of autism was 0.47 percent.

Over the last 12 years: Developmental Disabilities has increased 17.1 percent—that's about 1.8 million more children with DDs in 2006–2008 compared to a decade earlier; prevalence of autism increased 289.5 percent; prevalence of ADHD increased 33.0 percent; and, prevalence of hearing loss decreased 30.9 percent.

In addition, data from this study showed that: Males had twice the prevalence of any Developmental Disabilities than females and more specifically had higher prevalence of ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, stuttering/stammering and other Developmental Disabilities; Hispanic children had lower prevalence of several disorders compared to non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black children, including ADHD and learning disabilities; Non-Hispanic black children had higher prevalence of stuttering/stammering than non-Hispanic white children; and Children from families with income below the federal poverty level had a higher prevalence of Developmental Disorders.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in the 27 years since President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

But there is still much work to be done to ensure our fellow citizens with such disabilities have the resources and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

HONORING CLINTON (MS) ALUM-  
NAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA  
THETA SORORITY, INCOR-  
PORATED

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible group of