

In 2012, at least **thirteen million children** will be teased, taunted, and physically assaulted by their peers, making bullying the most common form of violence our nation's youth experience this year. Every day, as children miss school due to fear of physical and psychological attacks on the basis of their skin color, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, and religion, is a call to action to put aside partisanship and join hands to combat the cultural phenomenon of bullying.

In this vein, Congressman Honda has created the **Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus** out of the belief that all communities deserve a safe environment to thrive. The formation of the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus thus provides a premier forum for parents, advocates, students, teachers, administrators, public servants and bullies themselves to come together to forge solutions that stop bullying now and forever. While engaging our young people, we must also challenge adults to be agents of change and active role models when setting the environment around them. It is up to all of us to take the conversation to a new level, to stand together to craft solutions that stop bullying in communities everywhere – online and offline.

We must also recognize bullying behavior as a symptom of other issues, stemming from family stress, neglect or trauma, and seek to address these causes and consequences to provide a voice for the voiceless. Parents, administrators, teachers, artists, and lawmakers each have a key role to play in the national mission to create a safe environment for young people, though bullying behavior does not diminish with age. Elderly bullying is another growing crisis, where **1 in 5 elders**

have experienced hostile animosity from their peers in a group setting, while tens of thousands of elderly adults are abused in their own homes, in relatives' homes, and even in facilities responsible for their care. More than

half a million reports of abuse

against elderly Americans reach authorities every year, with millions more unreported, reports ranging from harm and neglect by an overwhelmed caregiver, to being preyed upon financially.

As an educator of more than 30 years and a member of Congress who was bullied as a child, Congressman Honda understands the commitment, responsibility and connection we have to our communities. This caucus provides a support for the larger anti-bullying and anti-discrimination conversation we are having as a nation. Working beyond silos, Representative Honda will continue to ensure that the voices we advocate beside and on behalf of are heard across all sectors in a sustainable climb forward.

Congressman Honda forms Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus

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If you have press inquiries about the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, please do not hesitate to contact Jack d'Annibale at 202-225-2631.