



## Congressman Eliot L. Engel

*Representing parts of the Bronx and Westchester Counties*

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Engel Marks National Day of Silence**

Washington D.C. – Congressman Eliot Engel, a member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, today marked the National Day of Silence, an annual day to bring attention to the bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students at school.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, tens of thousands of students at schools across this country and around the world will observe a vow of silence in support of LGBT students. The National Day of Silence is organized by GLSEN, a national educational organization for students, parents, and teachers that champion LGBT issues in K-12 education.

“I am proud to once again introduce H.Con.Res 49, supporting the National Day of Silence.” Congressman Engel said. “No students should ever be made to feel unsafe or unwelcome because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. While progress is being made, discrimination for those in the LGBT community remains a huge problem, especially among young people. We must continue to work to ensure that every child feels safe, no matter who they are. The discrimination and abuse must stop.”

According to GLSEN, more than half of LGBT youth feel unsafe in their classrooms. This year, one-in-five students will be physically harassed because of their gender expression, and more than one-in-eight will be physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender. Bullying and harassment negatively impacts students’ mental health and school performance.

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