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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0517

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**  
**National Day of Silence – One Minute Floor Statement**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Day of Silence.

Tomorrow is the 17th year we've commemorated the National Day of Silence, a time when students across the country remain silent for the whole day to draw attention to discrimination toward their LGBT peers.

Our country has made great progress towards more acceptance and tolerance for gay and lesbian individuals. However, gender expansive students, gender diverse students, and straight allies still face a lot of fear and discrimination. I want all these students to know that they are not alone.

I say this every year, but I continue to be so proud of my young constituents and their parents and families who are working to make the world a better place for all people, no matter your race, color, gender or sexual orientation.

For example, Jordan, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade transgender male student at The Ark in Santa Cruz, will be one of the Emcees for the 17th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards in Capitola.

Jordan's mom, Heidi is an Advisory Council member to the Trans\* Teen Project and a facilitator of the Transfamily Support Group.

Jordan and Heidi work to support trans\* kids and their families because, as Jordan says, "With people who love and support me, I can live to be a better and stronger person."

Though many LGBT students and their allies are silent tomorrow, we in Congress must never be silent. It is our job to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.