

*May 20, 2011*

Pleasanton, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) hosted an informational forum yesterday on cyber bullying among children, which drew a crowd of nearly 100 parents. The forum, held in partnership with the Pleasanton Unified School District and Pleasanton PTA Council, provided parents of middle and high school age children with information on and tools to address the negative and growing phenomenon of cyber bullying.

“I’ve heard from many parents that they’re concerned about cyber bullying,” said Rep. McNerney. “With children spending more and more time on computers and cell phones these days, it makes sense that parents have questions about how to keep their kids safe online. I decided to host this forum in order to give parents an opportunity to talk about the growing phenomenon of cyber bullying and find solutions to the problem.”

Merve Lopus, Educational Program Manager with Common Sense Media, gave a presentation at the event. Common Sense Media is a not-for-profit national organization that provides information to parents and teachers on age-appropriate media use and online safety for children. Mr. Lopus’ presentation included background on and examples of cyber bullying, tips for monitoring technology use among children, and suggestions for implementing strategies to address cyber bullying.

Tina and Franck Dupart, Pleasanton residents and parents of two teen children attended the forum together. Following the presentation, they were thankful for the information they received at the event, saying, “We need to do more of these events” and adding, “The content was powerful and overdue. This was helpful as a parent to show us what help is out there and how to address it with our kids.”

Pleasanton Unified School District staff and representatives from the Pleasanton Police Department were also available during a question and answer period for audience members following the main presentation. The event took place yesterday, Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton.