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February 23, 2023

Dear Art Teachers and Educators,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting program for your high school students. Each spring, the U.S. House of Representatives sponsors the <u>Congressional Art Competition</u> to honor talented young artists from across the country. I want to showcase our best from California's 49th Congressional District, so please encourage your students to participate. The top three winning artists will receive cash prizes and the art awarded first place will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

The competition will be held in two phases. Students will submit images of their art to my office by **Tuesday, March 28** for a virtual gallery that I will host on my <u>Facebook page</u>. Then, a panel of independent judges will select 30 pieces for an exhibition at the <u>Oceanside Museum of Art.</u> The selections will be announced Friday, April 7. My staff will then reach out to the 30 students to collect their art during the week of April 10-14 for display at the museum. Of those, three will be chosen for cash prizes.

I will announce those winners at a private reception for the 30 student artists, their families, and teachers at the <u>Oceanside Museum of Art</u> on **Saturday**, **April 22**, **from 2-4pm**. We will also cite a Fan Favorite based on votes cast on my Facebook page.

The artwork guidelines and the required student information form are attached to this invitation. Please direct your students to submit a digital image of their art, along with the signed information form, to <u>CA49.ART@mail.house.gov</u>. Our office will respond to each student to confirm receipt of the submission.

We will post a gallery of all verified submissions on my <u>Facebook page</u> the week of April 3, 2023. To see the 2022 Congressional Art Competition winners, please view this national online gallery <u>here.</u>

I look forward to hosting our fifth competition to celebrate the student artists in our district. Thank you for bringing this to your students' attention and for your continuing support of the creative arts here in California's 49th Congressional District.

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Sincerely,

Mike Levin

Member of Congress