



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **State Representative John Keenan to Receive Anti-Defamation League Community Service Award for Anti-Bullying Bill**

SALEM - On May 13<sup>th</sup>, State Representative John Keenan will receive the Anti-Defamation League (“ADL”) New England Community Service Award for his contribution to the anti-bullying legislation passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year. Representative Keenan worked closely with Derrek Shulman, Regional Director for ADL New England to ensure that meaningful protections against bullying and enhanced safety in school were included in the final bill.

“I am honored to receive this award from the Anti-Defamation League. Schools, playgrounds and electronic devices need to be free from bullying and students need to be protected. Children need to feel that their learning environment is a safe one and that bullying of any form will not be tolerated,” said Rep. Keenan.

The House passed, by a vote of 148-0, the anti-bullying bill that includes a critical amendment mandating the reporting of bullying incidents and requiring training of all school staff. Shortly before the House vote, the ADL had considered withdrawing its support of the anti-bullying legislation that the group had been advancing for over 2 years. House Ways and Means had revised the legislation and gutted an earlier version of the bill, weakening important safety provisions. Differences between the House and Senate versions of the anti-bullying bill now will be addressed in a legislative conference committee

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, ADL New England Region will present its Community Service Award at its Essex County Law and Education Day at the Kernwood Country Club in Salem. State Representative Lori Ehrlich (D- Marblehead) will also receive a Community Service Award.

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