# HUMANIST COMMUNITY August 2020 In Silicon Valley www.humanists.org Vol 27 Issue 8

Editor: Alex Havasy Calendar Graphics: Sena Havasy

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A Virtual Celebration of Humanism American Humanist Association 2020 Conference

### **Congressional Freethought Caucus**

The only humanist and agnostic serving openly in Congress, Representative Jared Huffman founded the Congressional Freethought Caucus in April 2018. The goals of the CFC are to promote public policy formed on the basis of reason, science, and moral values; to protect the secular character of our government by adhering to the strict Constitutional principle of the separation of church and state; to oppose discrimination against atheists, agnostics, humanists, seekers, religious and nonreligious persons, and to champion the value of freedom of thought and conscience worldwide; and to provide a forum for members of Congress to discuss their moral frameworks, ethical values, and personal religious journeys.

Former House of Representatives historian Ray Smock and historian of science and religion Stephen Weldon have noted what they see as the unique and historic nature of this caucus. Smock says it hearkens back to the Enlightenment ideas from the founding of the nation, and Weldon points out the political liability of being non-religious.<sup>[2]</sup> Raskin called the caucus formation "historic", while Huffman stated the Caucus would "help spark an open dialogue about science and reason-based policy."



# lared Huffman

The American Humanist Association (AHA) is pleased to honor Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) as the 2020 Humanist of the Year at its 79th Annual Conference, "Distant but Together: A Virtual Celebration of Humanism," streaming live online on August 8, 2020.

### **Online Forums**

Due to COVID 19 our forums are online with Zoom. Echoplex Media provides the platform. Go to https://us04web.zoom.us/j/314247393 to attend online through the microphone and camera on your computer or go to https://www.echoplexmedia.com/humanist to watch the forum.





