

Legislation, Developed by Israel and Lieneck Family, Will Require Coast Guard to Outline Plan for Implementing Minimum Boating Proficiency Standards



Babylon, NY—On Monday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) announced the introduction of “Brianna’s Law,” boating safety legislation he developed alongside family members of Brianna Lieneck, an eleven year-old girl from Deer Park who lost her life in a 2005 boating collision in Great South Bay. As Congress prepares to debate the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, Congressman Israel will fight to include legislation requiring that the Coast Guard to develop a plan to implement minimum boating proficiency standards for recreational boat operators.

“Instead of retreating into understandable grief, the Lieneck family and their friends have dedicated themselves to boating safety,” said Congressman Israel. “Brianna’s Law is a result of their tireless dedication and will require that the Coast Guard develop a plan to implement minimum boating proficiency standards.”

“We worked on this legislation with Congressman Israel as one way to honor Brianna’s memory,” said Gina Lieneck, Brianna’s mother. “It is our hope that Brianna’s Law will prevent the tragedy our family faced from happening to other families.”

On August 17, 2005, Brianna Lieneck was killed in a tragic boating collision. “Brianna’s Law,” named in her memory, would require the Coast Guard to submit to Congress within one year a model plan for implementation of a Federal program on recreational vessel operator proficiency. The legislation was developed after Congressman Israel and the Lieneck family met with a Coast Guard Rear Admiral responsible for emergency response in Israel’s Washington, DC office.

Last year, the number of boating death and injuries increased for the second year in a row. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, boating collisions in 2006 claimed 710 lives and cause 3,474 injuries. 70% of reported fatalities occurred when a boat operator had not received boating safety instruction.