

***Garvey's story of perseverance in the face of adversity highlights the importance of education***

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Rep. Steve Israel welcomed Brentwood High School senior and Intel Science Talent Search semifinalist Samantha Garvey to Washington along with her family and her science teacher and advisor Rebecca Grella. The Garvey Family, whose story has received national attention, recently became homeless after her parents could not work due to injuries sustained in a car accident.

“It was a true privilege to welcome Samantha Garvey, her family and her science teacher, Ms. Grella to Washington today,” said Rep. Israel. “I invited Samantha to join me for the State of the Union not only because she exemplifies what it means to persevere and flourish in the face of adversity, but also because her presence forces us to ask ourselves difficult question when it comes to education funding. I hope my colleagues understand that we cannot praise Samantha’s achievements while also advocating for slashing education budgets that allow students like Samantha, who face difficult circumstances through no fault of their own, to succeed.”

“It is an honor to represent my classmates as Congressman Israel’s guest at the State of the Union,” said Ms. Garvey. “I appreciate the opportunity to attend this event and hope to discuss the importance of good schools and science programs with Mr. Israel and our other representatives in Washington.”

“Without the Intel Science Talent Search, this wouldn't have been possible,” said Ms. Grella. “I was happy to accompany Samantha down to Washington and see how many people were touched by her story of persistence and her deep value for education.”

Upon their arrival, Rep. Israel set up a meeting for Ms. Garvey and Ms. Grella with Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Tech. and Director of the Office of Science and Tech Policy, Steve Fetter, Associate Director of Energy and Environment; Mary Maxon, Assistant Director, Biological Research and Kumar Garg, STEM Policy Analyst. After the meeting, the Garvey Family joined Ms. Garvey and Ms. Grella for a tour of the Capitol given by Rep. Israel. The Congressman then invited the Garvey Family and Ms. Grella to join

## **Rep. Israel Hosts Intel Semifinalist Samantha Garvey at the State of the Union**

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him for dinner in the Members Dining Room along with Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Ms. Garvey then accompanied Rep. Israel to a reception hosted by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and took a photo with Speaker John Boehner before getting situated in the House Gallery, where she viewed President Barack Obama deliver the State of the Union Address.