## OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JIM LANGEVIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 8, 2018

CONTACT: Seth Klaiman 401-732-9400

East Greenwich Student Takes First in Congressman Langevin's 18th Annual Art Competition Students from East Greenwich High School and Cranston High School West are runners up

WARWICK, RI – On Sunday, Congressman Langevin (D-RI) announced the results of the Second Congressional District 2018 High School Art Competition during a ceremony at the Warwick Mall. East Greenwich High School freshman and Nancy Stephen Gallery and School of Art student Sophia Patti took home the first prize for her oil painting, entitled "Finding an Old Treasure on the Cape," and her work will be on display in the United States Capitol. Langevin has hosted the competition every year since first taking office in 2001, and 62 teenagers representing schools throughout the Second District participated this year.

"It's no wonder Rhode Island is renowned nationally for its arts scene given the amazing talent we have in our schools," said Langevin, who has sponsored legislation to increase the role of art and design in STEM education. "I host this competition every year because exposure to art and design principles helps students do better in a range of academic disciplines. But beyond the important role the arts play in the Rhode Island economy and in preparing students to succeed, I also believe in the power of the arts to change lives. I hope all the participants take what they've learned back to their communities, and I thank them and their teachers for the craftsmanship they shared with us."

In June, Patti's piece will be placed on display in the Cannon Tunnel, a pedestrian walkway leading to the U.S. Capitol, during a ceremony with art competition winners from around the country. Her work will replace "Dreaming of Spring," a mixed media portrait by 2017 winner Arianna Deal.

This year's runners up, who will have their artwork hang in Langevin's Warwick office, are:

- Second place: "Bedstemor" by Hallie Comer, a junior at East Greenwich High School
- Third place (tie): "Tangled" by Zari Apodaca, a junior at Cranston High School West, and "Black Power" by Jeffrey Marchetti, a senior at Cranston High School West

###