

Activity Journal 5 (Jenna Lee)

- *Access the website of the U. S. House of Representatives (<https://www.house.gov/>). Locate your local representative. What committees do they serve on? What legislation have they sponsored or co-sponsored? Each legislator's personal website provides access to current press releases. How would you describe how your legislator seems to be using their time? What surprises did you discover? What would you change if you could?*

In my district, Grace Meng represents the house. According to the house (n.d.), Grace Meng is serving her sixth term in the United States House of Representatives, representing New York's Sixth Congressional District. Grace's district encompasses all of Queens, including west, central, and northeast Queens. As a member of Congress, Grace serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which along with the Senate passes appropriation bills. House Appropriations Committee finances federal government programs and activities. She is a member of both the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies subcommittee. Grace serves as the First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a co-Chair of the House Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism, and as a Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.

Grace has passed several pieces of legislation into law. She has sponsored or co-sponsored bills supporting religious freedom, making Queens historic sites a National Park Service site, striking "Oriental" from federal law, protecting residents of public housing from insufficient heat, helping students close the homework gap by improving broadband and internet access, and establishing the first steps toward building a national museum of Asian Pacific American History. Additionally, she signed into law measures to assist veterans and members of the military, as well as provisions to improve consumer protections and safeguards for children.

She has invested her time in promoting opportunities for communities of color, young adults, families, small businesses, and women. A descendant of an Asian immigrant family and the daughter of a former New York state senator, she has represented minorities and immigrants alike.

I was surprised to learn that she initiated the bill to strike "Oriental" from federal law and set the first step towards creating a national museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture. She has advocated for Asian Americans who have been alienated and considered forgotten minorities as a result of the myth of the model minority and forever foreigner.

In my opinion, she would support legislation that would extend mental health services and programs to Asian Americans. In addition, Asian Americans and other minority groups are subjected to profound racism. To protect minorities from racism and hate crimes, she must form a coalition with other minority congress members. It is undeniable that Asian Americans have been the primary targets of racism and hate crimes during the COVID 19 pandemic.

References

House.gov (n.d.), Congresswoman Grace Meng. Retrieved from <https://meng.house.gov/about>