

(Roll no. 580) On passage of H.R. 732—Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act, had I been present I would have voted yes.

(Roll no. 581) On passage of H.R. 3898—Otto Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions Act, had I been present I would have voted yes.

(Roll no. 582) On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H. Con. Res. 71—establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, had I been present I would have voted yes.

(Roll no. 583) On adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 71—establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, had I been present I would have voted yes.

(Roll no. 584) On approval of the Journal, had I been present I would have voted yes.

HONORING LORRAINE L. PALAIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 31, 2017*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and pillar of the Yonkers community, Lorraine L. Palais, who this year is being honored by the Aquehung Women's Democratic Club at their 52nd Annual Luncheon.

Lorraine has been active in the community and the local political scene for many years. Her and her husband, Elliott, moved to Yonkers with their son in 1961 and by April 1962, she had become a member of the "William Haber Second Ward Democratic Club." Lorraine's involvement in the club was only the beginning. She was a Ward Leader for over thirty years, and still is a District Leader. She has served as Treasurer for a successful Mayoral candidate, for City Judges, County Judges as well as a New York State Supreme Court Judge. She also managed and was Treasurer of Elliott's campaigns as well as other state and county candidates.

Lorraine later joined Aquehung Women's Democratic Club when it was open to the entire City. She was the first woman to receive the Americanism Award from the Yonkers Central Committee of Veterans' Organizations, and also received the Exchange Club "One Nation Under God Award." In addition, Lorraine has received the Kiwanis International "Walter Zeller" Award, the PTK Jenkins Award and other Honors. And above all else, she is currently serving her thirty-fifth year as President of the Yonkers Police Second Precinct Community Council.

Lorraine Palais has dedicated her life to helping improve the lives of those around her, and she has been an outstanding servant of the people. I am proud to call her a friend and I too would like to congratulate her on this wonderful honor and recognition from the Aquehung Women's Democratic Club. It is well-deserved.

GARFIELD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIVISION RECOGNITION TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 31, 2017*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees of the Garfield County Department of Human Services for their dedication to child welfare. Their work recently garnered national recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Children's Bureau.

Every year the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Children's Bureau reviews child welfare practices across the nation. The Department selected Denver, Pueblo, and Garfield Counties in Colorado for in-person reviews this year. The child welfare division is the second largest division in the Garfield County Department of Human Services; it employs 31 individuals, who each respond to and manage cases related to child abuse, neglect, and protection for at-risk adults. From January 1 through September 20, 2017, roughly 350 referrals were assigned to the division, 85 percent of which were cases related to parental substance abuse. During the in-person review, 27 of Garfield County's cases were analyzed in-depth to determine whether the child welfare division followed federal guidelines and focused on child protection, outcomes of permanency, safety and well-being.

While it is rare for any entity to be awarded a perfect score, at the conclusion of the Department's evaluation, nine of Garfield County's cases were marked in the 100 percent category. The review results are a testament to the passion and dedication that each member of the child welfare division brings to their work every day. In addition to its review findings, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also praised Garfield County for going above and beyond to engage in timely communication with families involved in cases.

Mr. Speaker, Garfield County's exemplary performance in the field of child welfare is incredibly valuable to communities in the county and our state as a whole. We are thankful for their continued efforts to improve the lives of young children and adults in the Third Congressional District. I stand with the residents of Colorado in thanking the employees of the child welfare division for their service.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 31, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the annual Best of Braddock Awards. These awards are the result of collaboration between the Braddock District Council and Braddock District Supervisor and are presented to individuals and organizations whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax

County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of Braddock District. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community and tonight's event proves that Braddock District is one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia. That is due in no small part to the actions of those honored here this evening. I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees and commend them for their efforts on behalf of others and in making our community one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2017 Best of Braddock Awards:

Katie Pope—This Annandale High School student has an impressive record of community service to a number of civic, church and charitable organizations.

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)—This organization takes responsibility for supporting all of the numerous upkeep activities necessary to maintain a 493 acre park.

Meghan Walker—The organizer and manager of all of the FLAP activities in support of the Park.

Kiley Foster—This energetic first grader (one of the youngest Honorees ever) has started on an exemplary path of community service through her contributions to her church, charitable organizations, and other service groups such as "Girls on the Run."

Irene Merrill—Nominated by the Briarwood Court Condo Association, Irene has continuously improved and produced the Association newsletter for over 10 years.

Jeremiah Bethea—This All-Conference, All-Regional, and All-State pole vault competitor also finds time outside of athletics to earn service awards from his neighborhood, write for the student newspaper, participate in student Government, and qualify for Math and Social Studies Honor Societies.

Suzanne Metz—This physical education teacher is the organizer of "Walk to School" and "Bike to School" days. She has also been instrumental working with the PTA to establish a summer camp.

Norene Gerstner—This avid gardener has served the Braddock District for 21 years as a volunteer working in and around the Kings Park Library. She has been a leader in conceptualizing and implementing the unique garden surrounding the library along with her "Gardening Friends of Kings Park Library" Group.

Morton Berger—The first posthumous honoree, he volunteered thousands of hours with VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) to memorialize through photograph numerous police activities for the Fairfax County Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2017 Best of Braddock honorees for their tremendous contributions to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. I also wish to extend special recognition to George Klein, the chair of the Braddock District Council, for his work in organizing this event and for his tireless efforts on behalf of others in our community.

ANNE HEDGEPEETH: TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE BIPARTISAN TASK  
FORCE TO END SEXUAL VIO-  
LENCE

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 31, 2017*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following:

On behalf of the more than 170,000 bipartisan members and supporters, over 1,000 branches, and almost 800 college and university partners of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I want to thank you for inviting me to testify at today's roundtable on the topic of "Promoting Healthy Relationships in K-12 Education and Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence on College Campuses."

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political. As early as 1945, AAUW was studying the impact of sex discrimination on college campuses. In 1972, we were instrumental not only in winning passage of Title IX but also in securing the subsequent regulations to aid compliance with the law. Today AAUW continues to fight for gender equity in education through research, legal case support, fellowships and grants, and advocacy.

When education environments are hostile due to sexual harassment, assault, or violence, students cannot learn and end up missing out on true educational opportunities. AAUW's own research reveals that two-thirds of college students experience sexual harassment and nearly half of students in grades 7 through 12 face sexual harassment. In addition, many studies have found that around 20 percent of women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students.

Recently, AAUW has taken a look at what information schools collect and report regarding the number of incidents experienced by students. We have concerns about the continued underreporting of sexual harassment and violence revealed in our analyses and what this tells us about the lack of progress educational institutions have made in removing barriers for survivors to come forward.

With regards to higher education, AAUW has examined the data required by the Clery Act. Our findings indicate that the annual statistics collected by colleges and universities still do not tell the full story of sexual violence on campus. Eighty-nine percent of college campuses disclosed zero reported incidences of rape in 2015. With about 11,000 campuses providing annual crime data, an overwhelming majority of campuses certified that in 2015 they did not receive a single report of rape. In addition, for 2015 about 9 percent of campuses disclosed a reported incident of domestic violence, around 10 percent disclosed a reported incident of dating violence, and about 13 percent of campuses disclosed a reported incident of stalking. So in each of these categories as well, most campuses did not disclose any reported incidents in 2015. Among the main or primary campuses of colleges and universities with enrollment of at least 250 students, 73 percent disclosed zero rape reports in 2015.

A similar trend is present in K-12 schools. Just this week AAUW released additional analysis of the 2013-14 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) to get a picture of where sexual harassment in public schools is being reported. In our analysis we specifically examined public schools whose students include those enrolled in grades 7 through 12. In analyzing the CRDC data we found that nationally, 79 percent of these schools disclosed zero reported incidents of sexual harassment. The rate of reporting varied across states, from Florida and Hawaii, where 98 percent of schools reported zero incidents of sexual harassment, to Vermont, where only 46 percent of schools reported zero incidents.

Contrast that to findings from AAUW's groundbreaking study, *Crossing the Line*, which found that nearly half (48 percent) of students surveyed had experienced some form of sexual harassment in the past school year, with nearly 9 in 10 (87 percent) saying it had had a negative impact on them. The extraordinarily high number of zeros at both the K through 12 and higher education levels suggests that some students continue to feel uncomfortable coming forward to report such incidents. This should be a cause for concern for all schools. Our educational institutions must take an honest look at their processes: Do they facilitate accurate data collection, welcome reporting, and provide resources and training to support survivors? Respond fairly and promptly to incidents and prevent their recurrence? If not, reforms must be made.

#### PREVENTION IS CRITICAL

First and foremost it is important that schools commit to preventing sexual harassment and violence before it occurs. As the CDC recommends, a comprehensive approach to prevention focuses on several strategies that together have an impact. These strategies include, "promoting social norms that protect against violence; teaching skills to prevent SV; providing opportunities, both economic and social, to empower and support girls and women; creating protective environments; and supporting victims/survivors to lessen harms." Several evidence-based programs support this approach and can be utilized in schools.

#### SCHOOL RESPONSE

Schools must also work to end sexual harassment violence by implementing a prompt and fair response to incidents, as required by federal law. Doing this can help contribute to the change necessary to end sexual harassment and violence in schools. Several federal laws play an important role in shaping schools' responses to incidents.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. This includes protecting all students from sexual harassment and sexual violence regardless of who the harasser may be. And Title IX applies to all education programs, including both K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Title IX has long required schools to evaluate their current practices, adopt and publish a policy against sex discrimination, and implement grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee discrimination complaints. Under Title IX, schools are required to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual violence, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires colleges and universities who participate in federal financial aid

programs to disclose campus crime statistics and security information. Every school provides this information publicly. Thanks to updates to the Clery Act in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, schools are now required to report crime statistics (on rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), update procedures following an incident of sexual violence, and provide prevention and bystander intervention training to all students and employees. These new requirements are separate and apart from the long-standing obligations that schools have under Title IX. These laws can work together to ensure that students have the information they need regarding campus safety, as well as a clear course of action when sexual violence occurs.

While Title IX remains the law of the land and students continue to have protection from sexual harassment and violence in schools, AAUW is disappointed that the Department of Education has recently withdrawn the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence as well as the 2014 Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence. Both were critical guidance tools schools requested to clarify their responsibilities under Title IX when responding to sexual violence. In their place, a new, less robust Questions and Answers guidance document is to be used. This is a blatant rollback from the strong and much-needed guidance that was in place. This ever-changing landscape could potentially sow confusion for schools, administrators and staff, students, parents, and communities. The new interim guidance was also issued following an open comment period where the Department of Education heard from thousands of stakeholder including more than 10,000 AAUW advocates urging the protection of Title IX. The department's willingness to ignore the overwhelming support for Title IX, its regulations, and prior guidance is proof that the agenda was not to listen and take into account input from the community but rather to move forward with a predetermined plan of action.

AAUW looks forward to weighing in as the Department of Education engages in its stated rulemaking process. In the meantime we continue to work with schools to ensure that students' civil rights are upheld. Congress also has the opportunity to continue to drive progress on the important issue of ending sexual harassment and violence in schools. AAUW urges Representatives to support legislation including, but not limited to, the Gender Equity in Education Act, the Title IX Protection Act, the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency Act, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and the Student Non-Discrimination Act. In addition, Congress should fund prevention education through the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE), administered by the CDC Injury Center, at the Senate approved levels for FY18. Increase funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, administered by the Department of Education. Congress should also continue to support the Civil Rights Data Collection and Clery Act data collection so that students, parents, administrators, and community members can continue to monitor the prevalence of sexual harassment and violence in schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's roundtable discussion. AAUW looks forward to working with the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence on these critical issues.