

ANNE HEDGEPETH: 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. ANTOINE “FATS”
DOMINIQUE DOMINO, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Antoine “Fats” Dominique Domino Jr., a lifelong New Orleanian musician known as a founding father of rock ‘n’ roll, who passed away on October 24, 2017 at the age of 89.

Mr. Domino was born on February 26, 1928, in the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans, Louisiana, the youngest of eight in a family of modest means. He earned his nickname thanks to his short, squat stature. As a boy, he became obsessed with the piano, teaching himself to play along with songs on the radio. He practiced so much that his parents put the piano in the garage.

Mr. Domino took cues from rhythm and blues stars Louis Jordan and Charles Brown and blues singer Amos Milburn, even as he developed his own highly rhythmic style. He started out performing on the side while doing a variety of odd jobs, delivering ice to homes that didn’t have refrigerators, fitting springs into bed frames, working in an auto-repair shop that a cousin owned and tending the cousin’s bar next door.

Conversation of his high-spirited approach to the piano spread, and he started attracting crowds to the Hideaway Club on Desire Street, in the Upper 9th Ward. His signature piano triplets—three notes for every beat—became the basis of rock and pop songs for the next three decades. His lone gimmick involved using his immense girth to push the piano to the front of the stage—and this he did only during his encore. Visionary New Orleans bandleader, producer, songwriter, trumpeter and Imperial Records talent scout Dave Bartholomew discovered Domino at the club.

Their first collaboration, “The Fat Man,” recorded in December 1949 at Cosimo Matassa’s J&M studio on North Rampart Street, is arguably one of the first true rock ‘n’ roll records. It launched one of the most successful collaborations in rock history, as Domino and Bartholomew created a body of work for Imperial Records that moved New Orleans to the vanguard of popular music.

The dozens of Fats Domino singles included “Shake Rattle and Roll,” “When the Saints Go Marching In,” “Ain’t That a Shame,” “Blueberry Hill,” and so much more.

Mr. Domino sold in excess of 60 million records in the 1950s, more than anyone except Elvis Presley, according to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s official biography. He dominated Billboard’s pop and rhythm-and-blues charts from 1955 to 1963. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted him in 1986, its first year. The next year, he won a Grammy for lifetime achievement. President Bill Clinton honored him with a National Medal of Arts in 1998.

The city of New Orleans and the international community lost one of our favorite sons. Fats Domino’s many musical contributions will live on through generations of musicians to come. A pioneer celebrated on the international stage, Fats Domino never outgrew his beloved New Orleans. We loved him as much as he loved us.

Mr. Domino’s wife, Mrs. Rosemary Domino, died in 2008. Survivors, all of whom live in the New Orleans area, include four sons, Anatole, Andre, Antonio and Antoine III Domino; four daughters, Antoinette Smith, Anola Hartzog, Adonica Domino and Andrea Brimmer, numerous grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Antoine “Fats” Domino, a beloved father, grandfather, and a true example of New Orleans culture personified.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 3rd Annual Dinner. The theme of this year’s gala is “Celebrating Our Global Community” and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents is foreign born. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the Record the names of the following 2017 Annual Dinner honorees:

Ms. Diana Katz

Ms. Katz is a co-founder of the Giving Circle of Hope which provides grants to area nonprofits with budgets below \$2 million. She also co-founded NoVIE, a member driven, CEO-level forum that brings together ideas, knowledge and support to benefit the health and viability of social good organizations. She was the driving force behind the NV Rides program that provides transportation for the elderly, and has recently co-founded the Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia. The Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund will be awarding its first grant this year.

Mr. Mukit Hossain (posthumously)

Mr. Hossain was a telecommunications executive in northern Virginia who became a grass-roots activist following the September 11 terrorist attacks. He was instrumental in encouraging fellow Muslims to become more politically engaged through his role as president of the Virginia Muslim Political Action Committee. In 2006, he joined with Jewish leaders to push successfully for a Virginia state law that made it illegal to falsely label kosher and halal foods. He started Food Source, an organization to feed the homeless in Fairfax, and used his organizing skills on behalf of undocumented workers—particularly as immigration became a defining political issue in Prince William and Loudoun counties. Prior to his sud-

den death in 2010 he was named Herndon Citizen of the Year in and recognized for his community efforts in a joint resolution from the Virginia General Assembly.

Mr. Kofi Dennis

A Master Teaching Artist with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through Arts since 1998, Mr. Dennis has shared his skills in drumming and story-telling with children and adults of all ages. He provides Arts Integrated classroom residencies and professional development workshops in music and creative drama for early childhood educators locally, nationally and internationally. He has also brought drumming and storytelling to juveniles and prisoners in area jails. This past summer, he was part of a team of Wolf Trap master teaching artists and administrators who spent three weeks in Singapore. In collaboration with the National Arts Council and Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), this team led programs to train, facilitate workshops, and conduct STEM residencies in arts integration for teachers, administrators and artists.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region’s cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING DR. OLIVIA SMITH-BLACKWELL AS SHE RECEIVES THE 2017 GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Olivia Smith-Blackwell as she receives the Golden Stethoscope Award from the Erie County Chapter of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians at the 2017 Cheplove Dinner. As we celebrate local leaders in family medicine, Dr. Smith-Blackwell’s career and accomplishments deserve recognition.

Dr. Smith-Blackwell’s career demonstrates her depth and breadth in the field of medicine, including experience in public health, hospital administration, and clinical care. Her first endeavor out of medical school was to serve our community as Associate Medical Director of the Medical Assistance Program at the Erie County Department of Health, earning a promotion to Medical Director two years later. For thirteen years, Dr. Smith-Blackwell continued her public role as the Western Regional Health Director for the New York State Department of Health’s Office of Public Health. She brought her skills next to Sheehan Hospital, where she was President & CEO until 2002. Dr. Smith-Blackwell then moved on to open Meadow Family Medicine in North Tonawanda, where she continues to provide primary care to patients in our community.

Her educational background is equally as varied and impressive. Dr. Smith-Blackwell received her medical degree from the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, now known as the Jacobs School of