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 the problem 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 in 2013–14 48 percent of the schools disclosed zero reported incidents of sexual harassment. The rate of reporting varied across states, from Florida and Hawaii, where 7 percent of schools reported zero incidents of sexual harassment, to Vermont, where only 46 percent of schools reported zero incidents.

Contrary 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 is staggering, making us feel like we are not only 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. 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 and violence. As the CDC recommends, 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 programs and activities of all schools that receive federal funds. 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. Title IX requires that schools are required to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual violence, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Act (Clery Act) requires colleges and universities which 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 now report sexual statistics (on rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), update procedures following an incident of sexual violence, and mandate prevention and interventional 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 guidance document. 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.

In the meantime we continue to work with schools to ensure that students’ civil rights are upheld. Congress should act together 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 continue its support of interventions that combat sexual violence. Both were critical guidance tools schools 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 stakeholders 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 should act together 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 continue to support interventions that combat sexual violence with the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence on these critical issues.
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 children of modest means. He earned his nickname thanks to his short, squatly 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 helped us many times from the 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 and 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 “Ain’t That a Shame,” “Blueberry Hill,” and so much more.

Mr. Domino sold in excess of 60 million copies of his 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 this day. It’s fitting to celebrate such a musical legend.

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, more than 34% of residents are 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 recently co-founded a 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. Muki 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 form 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.

Dr. Olivia Smith-Blackwell
Dr. Smith-Blackwell’s career demonstrates a true leader 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. 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.

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 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 Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She also received her Master’s in public health from Columbia University.

Dr. Smith-Blackwell is a board-certified family physician who has been at the forefront of health care reform. She is a recognized leader in communities of color and has been a vocal advocate for health equity. She has published extensively on topics such as racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and has been a key player in efforts to address these issues.

Dr. Smith-Blackwell is a true leader in the field of medicine, and her contributions to our community are immeasurable. We are proud to recognize her achievements and to honor her with the Golden Stethoscope Award.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Olivia Smith-Blackwell as she receives the Golden Stethoscope Award.