

Community Champions:  
 Braddock District: David Curtis  
 Dranesville District: Penny Halpern  
 Hunter Mill District: Raul and Maria Garza-Chapa  
 Lee District: Michel Margosis  
 Mason District: Gail Coleman  
 Mount Vernon District: Whitney Minnich  
 Providence District: Friends of Oakton Library  
 Springfield District: John Pellegrin  
 Sully District: Karrie Delaney  
 At-Large: John K. Wood  
 Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Gary Pan  
 Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Kate Walter  
 Adult Volunteer Group: Friends of Huntley Meadows  
 Corporate Volunteer Program: Deloitte LLP  
 Fairfax County Volunteer: Karla Jamir  
 Fairfax County Volunteer Program: CERT  
 Family Volunteer: Young Family  
 Integrate Individual: Carolina Calderon  
 Lifetime Achievement: Marie Monsen  
 Rising Star: Shannon Dart  
 RSVP Northern Virginia: Denise Mackey-Smith  
 Senior Volunteer: Bard Jackson  
 Volunteer Program: Wolf Trap First Time Campers Program  
 Youth Volunteer: Emma Houston  
 Youth Volunteer Group: Stony Brook Jr. Volunteers

In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service. I congratulate the recipients of the 2017 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards and thank them and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one of the main reasons that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

AMY SANCHEZ: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### 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:

Good morning Congresspersons Kuster, Speier, Meehan and Joyce. Thank you for inviting me to participate in this important roundtable before the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence. My name is Amy Sanchez and I am the CEO of Break the Cycle, a national nonprofit that engages, educates and empowers youth to build lives and communities free from domestic and dating violence. Break the Cycle believes that everyone deserves a healthy relationship and since 1996 has worked to end dating abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and

stalking in the lives of young people ages 12 to 24 across the U.S. Thank you for holding this roundtable today to address the steps Congress can take to support the implementation of K through 12 healthy relationships and consent education, and to thank you each for being champions for ending sexual violence.

Dating abuse and sexual violence are public health epidemics with severe impacts for young victims:

One in three high school students experience either physical or sexual violence, or both, perpetrated by someone they are dating or going out with.

Nearly 30 percent of adult victims of interpersonal violence homicides from 2003 to 2014 were young women between the ages of 18 and 29. (Unfortunately this CDC study did not address girls younger than 18.)

In Texas alone, 8 young women 19 and younger were murdered by an intimate partner in 2016.

More than half of women (69.5 percent) and men (53.6 percent) who have been physically or sexually abused, or stalked by a dating partner, first experienced abuse between the ages of 11 and 24.

Among male high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, more than 1 in 4 have seriously contemplated suicide, and almost as many have attempted suicide.

Among female high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, nearly half have seriously contemplated suicide, and more than 1 in 4 have attempted suicide.

We also know that raising awareness early is essential to ending this epidemic because:

More than half (58 percent) of college students do not know how to help someone who is experiencing dating abuse; and

Nearly all college students (89 percent) are not confident in their ability to recognize the warning signs of dating violence.

Both intervention and prevention are keys to stopping dating abuse and sexual assault among young people. To that end, Break the Cycle's work focuses on three: 1) direct legal representation to young victims ages 12 to 24 in Washington, DC, in restraining order, Title IX, and victim witness advocacy cases; 2) supporting youth leadership on dating abuse issues in schools and communities; and 3) providing education programs to schools and other youth-serving entities on supporting young people to prevent dating abuse and sexual assault. My remaining remarks will address the third element of this work—prevention education—and how we can ensure that every K through 12 student in the U.S. has access to developmentally appropriate programming.

Break the Cycle's prevention programming takes many forms, including Healthy Relationships workshops, Resource Manuals for schoolteachers and administrators, and Real Talks. The goal is always to create a space for youth to engage in open and honest conversations about healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors in order to:

decrease the isolation that young victims so often feel;

enable young people to lead conversations about the good, the bad, and the normal in dating and relationships today;

teach young people how best to provide support to each other since we know they often do not report dating/sexual abuse to an adult;

allow young people to talk without fear of being judged or influenced by adults;

educate young people about dating abuse, including its warning signs; and

build on the lived realities of young people to develop effective engagement strategies to end dating violence and create a culture without abuse.

To prevent dating abuse and sexual violence among young people, Congress must fund primary prevention in every school. The funded approaches should meet the best practices standards set by the CDC, including that the education be: comprehensive; offered in sufficient dosage; socio-culturally relevant; evidence-based; offered by well-trained implementers; include outcome evaluations; and employ varied teaching methods.

One cannot check social media or news outlets today without reading about another sexual assault case, including on our school campuses. School districts are waking up to the fact that primary prevention programs are needed to teach young people about healthy and unhealthy relationship patterns and what consent means. Many states, including Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, and Rhode Island, are leading the way by requiring that schools include consent and healthy relationships education within their sexual education curricula.

Budget choices are policy choices, and Congress has the opportunity to support these state efforts through adequate funding. One such avenue is the \$5 million increase for Rape Prevention Education in the Senate Appropriations Bill—the Task Force should champion this increase in RPE in the House as a concrete step towards ending dating abuse and sexual assault.

I want to close with some words from the sister of a dating abuse survivor who Break the Cycle assisted. She wrote BTC: "I had not thought about the need for interventions for young people. But then when my sister needed help, you were there for her. I will never be able to thank you enough for what you did for her. She has since met an amazing man and will be getting married soon. I doubt she will tell you, but you will be there nonetheless—in the form of a safe and whole bride walking into the arms of a man who loves and respects her." Through adequate funding and mandates for healthy relationships and consent education in K through 12 schools, Congress can be instrumental in preventing dating violence and sexual assault and ensuring that love and respect are the touchstones of relationships that young people form throughout their lives.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 31, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, Wednesday, September 27, 2017, Thursday, September 28, 2017, Monday, October 2, 2017, Tuesday, October 3, 2017, and Wednesday, October 4, 2017, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures due to a foot injury. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

(Roll no. 532) On ordering the previous question providing for consideration of H.R. 2824—Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act, and H.R. 2792—Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017, had I been present I would have voted yes.

(Roll no. 533) On adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2824—Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act, and H.R. 2792—Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017, had I been present I would have voted yes.