

What will we say to them?

The current climate of the MeToo movement is a wakeup call to the Nation. Let's not make this a partisan issue, because crimes of violence against anyone must be addressed.

Therefore, when we ignore an extraordinary movement such as the MeToo movement by not reauthorizing a strengthened and improved VAWA that meets today's challenges, then we have failed women.

If we do not defeat this previous question we are telling all of our constituents that rely heavily on VAWA and all of those that care about protecting women, men and children's rights against violence that we do not care.

On July 26, 2018, I introduced H.R. 6545, VAWA 2018, which is a compromise version with modest improvements, because I am committed to passing a bipartisan Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that is tailored to appeal to Members of Congress across the political spectrum.

We should all be committed to do the same in order to respond to the desperate pleas of our sisters and brothers in dire need of our help.

Colleagues, this is your moment to do the right thing for the right reasons and help bring H.R. 6545 to the floor for a vote.

This has always been a bipartisan effort. Let's not let the current times and background noise sway us away from our pivotal duties. Let's show the American people that we care about victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault and sexual harassment, which I have added in VAWA 2018.

H.R. 6545 has received the support of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, which is a national collaboration comprising a large and diverse group of national, tribal, state, territorial and local organizations, advocates, and individuals that focuses on the development, passage and implementation of effective public policy to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking ("the four crimes").

These modest, yet vital updates we have made to the existing Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") are based on the needs identified by direct service providers who work daily with victims and survivors of the four crimes.

H.R. 6545 makes the following improvements and more:

It makes important investments in prevention, a key priority identified not only by people who work with victims and survivors daily, but also by our very own bipartisan Women's Caucus.

It provides resources to implement evidence-based prevention programming, which will make our communities safer and, ultimately, saves taxpayers money.

It also safeguards important protections that ensure all victims and survivors have access to safety and justice and provides a mechanism to hold predators who prey on Native women accountable.

Moreover, it provides law enforcement with new tools to protect their communities.

It offers protections for survivors in federal public, subsidized, and assisted housing.

It supports victims and survivors who need assistance rebuilding financially.

It addresses the needs of underserved communities, and improves the healthcare response to the four crimes.

It closes many of the loopholes found in dating violence.

And in response to the overwhelming victims in the MeToo movement, it adds sexual harassment as part of the applicable crimes of violence.

In short, the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2018 is a narrow bill with a wide impact.

Let's not play politics with people's lives. Let's not short-change them by slashing funding in half. Let's not kick the can down the road while omitting funding. Let's not dismiss their cries and pleas. And certainly, let's not punish them mercifully because #THEY DID NOT REPORT.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018 LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA—PRINCE WILLIAM, INC. AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2018 Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William Inc. awards. Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William Inc. (LVA—PW) is a local nonprofit organization that has served Prince William County for more than 25 years. Its mission is to improve lives through adult literacy. It trains local volunteers to become tutors then pairs them with adults seeking to improve their literacy or English language skills. LVA—PW offers a range of literacy services including GED classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparedness, English as a second language classes, and more.

Every year LVA—PW hosts an annual meeting and award presentation to honor and share in the achievements of its adult learners and volunteers. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of the following LVA—PW award recipients:

Student of the Year: Bismark Osei. Bismark came to the U.S. from Ghana two years ago. He is a devoted and hardworking family man who came to LVA—PW seeking to better his life and further his education through earning a GED certificate. He joined LVA—PW's GED program one year ago and started taking three classes a week while also working full-time as a security guard. By August 7, 2018, through hard work and perseverance, he earned his GED certificate after only 10 months in the program. He plans to continue furthering his education and career goals by enrolling in college.

Tutor of the Year: Eduardo Lopez. Eduardo has been a volunteer with LVA—PW for more than two years. He serves as both a GED math tutor and basic computer literacy tutor. Since beginning at LVA—PW, he has provided over 350 volunteer hours while also working full-time. His passion, patience and encouragement inspires his students. This year alone, he has helped two students prepare for and pass the GED test. Eduardo is a living example of the impact that a single individual can have on a community.

Patti J. Beattie Volunteer of the Year: Martha Kobliska. Martha has been a volunteer with LVA—PW for more than 11 years. She serves as a tutor, fundraiser, and tutor trainer. As part of the tutor training team, she provides professional level training and certifications to all new tutors. This year alone, she has volunteered in excess of 325 hours to LVA—PW. Martha demonstrates her compassion and commitment to helping others through her positive spirit and willingness to serve whenever called upon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of the LVA—PW award recipients and to thank them for their contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION BLACK CAUCUS OF HEALTH WORKERS

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the American Public Health Association (APHA) Black Caucus of Health Workers on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This organization, which is the first and oldest caucus of the APHA, was founded during the Association's 1968 annual meeting held in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan.

For 50 years, the APHA Black Caucus of Health Workers has worked diligently to eliminate and reduce gaps in health and health outcomes by improving the quality of life of people of African American descent through advocacy, knowledge, practice and research. They perform valuable work in a field that has an immeasurable impact on the lives of all Americans.

In addition to raising the standard of care across our nation, the Black Caucus of Health Workers works to eliminate institutional racism in their industry, to ensure that minorities in the healthcare industry are receiving equal treatment and a proper quality of life. They also support the future of our workforce by helping African American students complete their studies in public health programs. This essential work has developed a strong community of African American employees in the healthcare industry.

The Caucus continues to move our nation forward every day by improving healthcare delivery and fostering innovation. The Caucus closely monitors developments in the field and provides a crucial forum for communication among African American healthcare workers, so that they can share ideas to improve their work and their entire industry.

On this momentous occasion, I want to congratulate the visionary founders and members of the APHA Black Caucus of Health Workers, as well as APHA's current Executive Director, Dr. Georges Benjamin, and all the leaders of the APHA for their important work. I look forward to their continued work for the health of our nation.