

# INTRODUCTION OF THE COMBATING IMPLICIT BIAS IN EDUCATION ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Combating Implicit Bias in Education Act. My bill would create a \$30 million grant program for schools to train teachers, principals and other personnel on implicit bias with respect to actual or perceived race, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

This year, a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that students of color with disabilities received far more severe and frequent punishment than their white counterparts. In December, the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos eliminated the Obama Administration's guidance seeking to curb exclusionary discipline, undermining key steps toward dismantling discriminatory discipline practices in classrooms.

In 2017, the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality released a report finding that people disproportionately think of Black girls as more adult-like and less innocent compared to their white peers. This bias has been linked to harsher treatment of Black girls in schools. Students experiencing implicit bias and even outright discrimination face far greater expulsion and suspension rates, fueling the school-to-prison pipeline and widening the student achievement gap.

This bill aims to reduce the effect of implicit bias on school discipline, academic achievement and academic attainment through research-based training for education personnel, and provides teachers with necessary tools to provide equal educational and constructive behavioral feedback.

Under my bill, the Institute of Education Sciences under the Department of Education would be tasked with evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the training.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## HONORING ROSEMARY PARGA DURAN

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. RoseMary Parga Duran as she retires from her position as Superintendent of Merced City School District. Throughout her 43 years in education, Dr. Parga Duran has made a positive impact on countless Merced schools and students.

Dr. Parga Duran earned her associate degree from Merced College and completed her bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). After graduating from Fresno State in 1977, she returned to Merced County to begin her teaching career at Planada Elementary School. Later in her career, she received a master's degree from California State University, Stanislaus

and a doctorate from the University of Southern California.

In 1985, she started her career with Merced City School District as a teacher and would later become an assistant principal, principal, and in 2002 was named the district's Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Six years later, Dr. Parga Duran became Merced City School District's first female superintendent.

As the leader of Merced County's largest school district, Dr. Parga Duran has worked tirelessly to address the challenges facing the 18 schools in the district. She began her job as superintendent during the great recession and led the district through this period without any employee layoffs, while keeping the district's budget fiscally solvent. Dr. Parga Duran was an advocate for the successful passage of Measure M, a bond which provided funds for school campuses to modernize and receive necessary safety upgrades.

Under Dr. Parga Duran's leadership, Merced City School District received two Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association for their STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) and preschool programs. She also oversaw the opening of Rivera Middle School and their STEAM Center. It is evident that Dr. Parga Duran's contributions to Merced City School District will continue to have an impact on our educators and future generations of leaders long after her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career and accomplishments of Dr. RoseMary Parga Duran. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor her and the positive impact she has made in the lives of students and staff as she celebrates her retirement. I wish Dr. Parga Duran, her family, and Merced City School District the best as she retires at the end of this year.

## RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL CALIGIURI FOR HIS GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF MEDICINE

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Dr. Michael Caligiuri who has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine's Class of 2018, one of the single highest honors in the field of medicine and healthcare.

Dr. Caligiuri spent his formative years in Kenmore, New York, where he attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. He then enrolled at the University at Buffalo to earn his undergraduate degree, and subsequently attended Stanford College for Medical School where he obtained his M.D.

Dr. Caligiuri utilized his education to the best of his ability to become a leader in his profession. He served as the CEO of The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, and he also directed The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center for fourteen years. In addition, he is the Immediate Past President of the American Association for Cancer Research, of which he was recently named a fellow.

Dr. Caligiuri has served as chairperson, or in other advisory capacities, for countless research organizations in addition to conducting several of his own research protocols. His groundbreaking research focused on the development and activation of human natural killer cells and their modulation to help treat diseases like leukemia and brain cancer. Since these discoveries, over one thousand patients with cancer have been treated with clinical protocols that were conceived in Dr. Caligiuri's laboratory.

In 2018, Dr. Caligiuri was named the President of the City of Hope in Los Angeles, a leading cancer research and treatment center. He conducted rigorous research and combined that with an inclusive leadership style to connect other healthcare institutions together in order to ensure the highest quality patient experience and care.

Dr. Caligiuri's breakthrough discoveries in NK leukemia and cutaneous T cell lymphoma has helped get him elected to the National Academy of Medicine, which according to The New York Times is, "the United States' most esteemed and authoritative adviser on issues of health and medicine, and its reports can transform medical thinking around the world".

The incredible distinction of election to the National Academy of Medicine has only been awarded to just over two thousand medical experts since 1970. Members are elected based on their professional achievement and commitment to service, and they do their selfless and consequential work without any compensation. No more than eighty members are elected annually. This speaks to Dr. Caligiuri's passion for healthcare, commitment to community service, and his overall talent as a medical professional. Complimenting the extraordinary accomplishments achieved during his career, Dr. Caligiuri is also a loving husband and a devoted father of three children.

Today we recognize Dr. Michael Caligiuri for becoming an innovative and influential leader both in the United States and around the world in not only engaging in exemplary research and treatment practices, but also advocating for the many people whose lives have been affected by the devastating reality of cancer.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 561; "nay" on Roll Call No. 562; "yea" on Roll Call No. 563; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 564.

## HONORING ARMY PFC. NATHAN P. BROWN

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Army Pfc. Nathan P.