

LOREDANA VALTIERRA

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. House of Representatives, Education and Labor Committee, Chairman Bobby C. Scott

Education Policy Counsel

Education Policy Fellow

Washington, D.C.

July 2019 - Present

August 2018 - June 2019

- Manage half of the Chairman's K-12 policy portfolio (Titles II, III, and IV-A of the ESEA, Title II of the HEA, school safety and climate, school infrastructure, curriculum, juvenile justice, community schools, and natural disaster impact on schools) which includes staffing and preparing Chairs Scott, Sablan, and Bonamici for and during hearings, caucus and stakeholder meetings, co-writing and approving Chair statements and remarks, agenda-setting in hearing formulation and witness selection, representing Committee's interests in stakeholder meetings, on panels, and to other Committees and Member offices, regularly meeting local and state school officials, co-defining Committee's K-12 GAO requests, and consulting with oversight counsel on oversight of the Department of Education
- Achieved House passage of the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act, a \$130 billion program to modernize high-poverty public schools and top priority for the Chairman, from updating bill text, stakeholder negotiation, introduction with 152 original cosponsors and 212 cosponsors at bill passage, leading the legislative hearing which was the Committee's first with a new Democratic majority, markup, writing Committee report, consulting on the scope of a GAO study which led to a report on the state of public school facilities to leverage the need, and building bipartisan support in coalition with groups for schools' inclusion in House Democrats' infrastructure package H.R. 2 *The Moving Forward Act* which passed the House on 7/1/2020
- Secured \$5 billion for, and wrote, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Facilities Aid program in House Democrats' *HEROES Act 2.0* passed on 10/1/2020 to meet urgent facility needs like quality air ventilation to reopen safely which ultimately resulted in two allowable uses for school facilities in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund as passed into law in the Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act signed into law on 12/28/2020
- Authored revisions to Title II of the Higher Education Act in H.R. 4674, *The College Affordability Act* passed out of Committee 10/30/2019 after collecting research and gathering experts for policy brainstorm and feedback; led hearing on educator preparation to support the policy changes reflected which included agenda-shaping, witness selection and memo-drafting, supported 3-day markup on the bill, and wrote part of Committee Report
- Achieved bipartisan House passage of H.R. 3659, *Danny's Law* on 9/16/2020 from negotiating Manager's Amendment bill text with House Republican Committee counterparts, working with lead House Democratic sponsor's office, requesting floor time under suspension of the votes, and managing floor speakers for debate time
- Led Committee passage of H.R. 4301, the *School Shooting and Safety Preparedness Act* on 9/18/2019 which included providing bill text recommendations prior to introduction, securing on-Committee co-leads for introduction, improving bill text while managing group, stakeholder, and Member feedback in one week to introduce Manager's Amendment at markup, and encouraging Member engagement and real-time responses during markup debate
- Assisted the passage into law of the reauthorization of the *Museum and Library Services Act of 2018* signed on 12/31/2018
- Provide technical assistance and strategic support to Member offices such as through producing policy memos, hearing questions, and talking points; provide data, talking points to Speaker's office, especially during pandemic negotiations
- Collaborate and negotiate with Committee Republican counterparts in House and Senate on policy and bill language
- Co-supervise two fellows and one policy associate which includes onboarding, regular check-ins, and teaching policy, process
- Led the oversight of the Puerto Rico k-12 school recovery post-Hurricane Maria while in the minority, including hosting the only Committee briefing on the issue after two unanswered written requests to then-Chair Foxx for a hearing; toured Puerto Rican schools and met with President of the Puerto Rican Teachers' Union, the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Education, and other educators to assess recovery efforts on behalf of the Committee which resulted in a joint letter with the Homeland Committee to FEMA on the recovery issues, a hearing on natural disaster recovery, and a letter to ED requesting information on the slow allocation of education funds to Puerto Rico
- Protect federal school safety and discipline policy from proposals lacking evidence which would harm students by dissuading Members from introducing such bills, educating staffers on stronger policy, and advocacy with other committees
- Provided extensive advice to Rep. McEachin's office to introduce a stronger proposal to ban corporal punishment in schools and one the Committee would support marking up in the 117th Congress, titled the *Protecting our Students Act*
- Co-drafting Chairman's next bill on lost instructional time and missing students to position extra funding for categorical programs like Title I, Title III, and IDEA in the next COVID-relief stimulus; collecting data, brainstorming and collaborating with experts and researchers on evidenced-based methods to close gaps in unfinished learning, how to target resources to the highest need students, and leverage pre-existing resources

National Women's Law Center

Education Fellow

Washington, D.C.

September 2016 - October 2017

- Represented two students in Title IX pregnancy discrimination cases against respective higher education institutions, one case resulted in tuition reimbursement, transcript corrections to allow student to retake classes, and additional supports and funding to help her graduate

- Co-developed team's policy priorities and platform and collected feedback from students and stakeholders; identified opportunities to advance policies at the district and state level and supported grassroots partners in them
- Drafted comprehensive model pregnant and parenting student policy for Tulsa Public Schools and legislation for pregnant and parenting students excused absences that became law in MD; drafted NWLC testimony for bill
- Researched and made policy recommendations about girls' education in juvenile justice in NWLC "Let Her Learn" report
- Collaborated in coalition meetings; wrote blog posts; conducted and evaluated Title IX intakes; delivered Know Your Rights presentations to students, parents and advocates; developed grassroots-level partnerships for local advocacy efforts

U.S. Department of Education, Office of the General Counsel

Washington, D.C.

Legal Intern

January 2016 - April 2016

- Conducted legislative, regulatory, and legal research for OGC advice to program offices and Office for Civil Rights consultation
- Drafted technical bill text for the *Stronger Together Act* first introduced in Congress 7/12/2016
- Wrote part of preamble for Final Rule on Impact Aid program of the ESEA published in Federal Register
- Created Indian Tribal Consultation reference that tracked changes to Indian Education in the *Every Student Succeeds Act*

Southern Poverty Law Center

Miami, FL

Legal Intern

June 2015 - August 2015

- Drafted ED OCR and DOJ Title VI supplemental complaint regarding a FL school district's discriminatory school discipline practices and reviewed and compiled the 10 student records to support the claim
- Researched and made policy recommendations on Deferred Action status students' in-state residency proofs to FL Board of Governors which were adopted into regulation
- Conducted legal research and wrote memoranda in support of incarcerated persons class action lawsuit; compiled legal research on opposing party's defenses and strategies in all prior suits in the state

Immigrant Justice Clinic, University of Wisconsin Law School

Madison, WI

Clinical Law Student

May 2014 - December 2015

- Won 2015 Abner Brodie Award for outstanding achievement in legal study and practical application of law
- Wrote successful state court Motion to Modify Sentence and Cancellation of Removal brief which won client's case in Court allowing him to stay in the country with his family; case preparation included preparing client and witness affidavits and their in-court testimonies, appearing in-person and via telephone in Chicago Immigration Court, conducting direct examination of witnesses in trial, and conducting fact-finding on client's former employment, dependents, immigration and family history
- Analyzed Wisconsin criminal statutes to categorize and compare with immigration law to determine feasibility of removal cases; planned strategy for cases that were accepted by clinic
- Conducted dozens of new client intakes in English and Spanish at detention center and over the phone
- Wrote and contributed an argument for an *amicus* brief to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in support of a party arguing that a criminal defense attorney's *Padilla* duty is to advise a client of automatic deportation when it is a certainty
- Maintained communication with clients and witnesses through mail, e-mail, and phone; communicated with ICE Chief Counsel and other agents such as hospitals, domestic violence agencies, and court reporters
- Began building a case which resulted in a successful petition for a U-Visa for immigrant father and mother which included conducting fact-finding to submit the petitions for U-Visas
- Represented unaccompanied minor children before state court and with USCIS to petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status that would ensure they could stay in the country

Teach For America, Eastern North Carolina Region, Weldon City Schools

Weldon, NC

7th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

June 2011 - June 2013

- Developed and implemented reading remediation curriculum for 40 students that resulted in the highest reading growth achieved in the school as measured by NC Department of Public Instruction in 2012; averaged two years of growth per student, which was unachieved by recent previous teachers of the class
- Invited to be a Content Learning Community Leader for other TFA Middle School Language Arts teachers
- Helped fundraise \$5,000 for Eastern North Carolina region in Sponsor a Teacher Program by sharing classroom experiences with a donor all year

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School

Madison, WI

J.D., Bar Admissions: State of Wisconsin (June 2016); District of Columbia (October 2017)

May 2016

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, IL

B.A., Political Science, Minor: Spanish

December 2010

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Bilingual Spanish Speaker