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### **Statement of Dylan Muriano**

This was the first time that I have ever felt that I was being treated differently for being Asian, and after it happened, I said to my mom—there are people who actually go through this every day and that’s horrible. It’s not right, and it shouldn’t be like that.

Before I told my mom, I was going to let it go and just move on, but I thought to myself, what if this teacher does it again or to another student in the future?

When I do something wrong, I admit it, apologize, and learn from it. I try my best to prevent myself from doing it again. The fact that my teacher wouldn’t even give me an apology tells me he doesn’t care how he made me feel, and that he DID treat me differently because I’m Asian. I don’t think he cares about what he did or how he made me feel at all.

There are some parents who always take the school’s side when something happens with their kid, so thanks mom for standing up for me and not giving up when the school wouldn’t do anything about it. I’ve never been in the principal’s

office before, so I know it must have made her upset when I was being sent out almost every day after this happened.

Despite what happens with all this, I'm still going to keep doing my best in school...and just like my mom told me when this first happened—I know when I grow up I'll probably end up working for or with people who might treat me differently because I am Asian American, and I just need to keep on doing my job the best I can.

Dylan Muriano

Student at Walter Reed Middle School

March 6, 2020