

crisis and to gauge their need for additional counterterrorism and security improvements.

In the 6 weeks following the terrorist attacks, my State spent \$18 million on homeland security and needs \$56 million more to upgrade emergency response in public health systems. State and local governments have done an exceptional job at pinpointing and prioritizing areas in need of improvement to ensure the safety of their citizens, and Congress must act now to provide them with the resources that they require.

Rhode Island's leaders recognize that law enforcement and emergency responders represent the first line of defense in the domestic fight against terrorism. As a result, they hope to invest \$5.8 million for improvements in coordinated emergency response efforts. Through new equipment and training for hazmat teams, the State will be better prepared to deal with the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

Also, the anthrax attacks highlight the need for a strong public health infrastructure. Rhode Island has proposed a \$48 million plan to enhance medical surveillance, research, and investigation. Our health officials must be prepared to identify a biological attack in its early stages, respond swiftly to the threat, and prevent further contamination.

As an original cosponsor of the Bioterrorism Prevention Act of 2001, which would provide \$7 billion to improve our national public health infrastructure, I applaud the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for proposing funding to address the threat of bioterrorism in our communities.

One particularly important provision included in the Obey amendment was a budget increase for the Coast Guard, which has now taken on new responsibilities since September 11. Daily life of Rhode Island is intricately tied to the ocean and Narragansett Bay. Commercial fishing netted \$79 million for the State's economy in 1999, and recreational boating is a popular pastime among our residents.

The Coast Guard's dependable presence and its work to keep our seaways safe have made them well respected among our boaters and our residents. However, the Coast Guard has been plagued by dwindling budgets in recent years, preventing personnel increases and equipment improvements. As a result, of the 41 nations with coastal patrols, the U.S. Coast Guard now has the 39th oldest fleet.

Nonetheless, the Federal Government expects the Coast Guard to patrol the Nation's 361 ports and increase inspections of foreign vessels, and 121 Rhode Island reservists have been called to this mission. Commandant Admiral James Loy has pleaded with Congress for years to raise funding levels for the Coast Guard, but we have again taken the wind out of their sails.

Moreover, the Obey amendment would have provided critical funding to

strengthen our border patrol. Each day, 1.25 million people, 500,000 vehicles, and 50,000 containers cross our borders; yet far too few vehicles, containers, packages, and other possessions are properly checked. We must provide the Border Patrol with the resources needed to detect and prevent terrorism at our borders.

Although the House was not able to address these and many other concerns by voting on the Obey amendment, I strongly encourage my colleagues to continue pushing for increased homeland security funding so that we may provide Americans the protection and peace of mind that they demand and that they deserve.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for raising these issues, especially his statement about the Coast Guard. I represent San Diego, California; and we only inspect less than 10 percent of the ships coming in. We need more positions for the Coast Guard. I thank the gentleman for his efforts here.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I could not agree more.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, since the April 3, 2001 introduction of H.R. 1343, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, more than 200 members (202) from both sides of the aisle have added their voices to the call for comprehensive legislation that will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement and amend federal law to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

This legislation is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our nation—violence motivated by prejudice. The legislation is designed to address two significant deficiencies in the existing bias crime law enforcement framework. First, the legislation loosens the overly restrictive federally protected activity requirement under existing hate crimes law. Second, the legislation expands the jurisdiction of the federal government to reach violent conduct aimed at victims on the basis of their gender, sexual orientation or disability status.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 245, is one of the primary statutes used to combat racial and religious violence. At the time of its passage in 1968, a number of members of Congress wanted to limit the reach of the statute. They accomplished their goal by including a dual intent requirement. To establish a violation under Section 245, a federal prosecutor must prove that a defendant acted, for example, because of the victim's race and because the victim was exercising one of a limited category of federally protected rights (e.g., serving on a jury, voting or attending public school).

The original version of the statute contained a less restrictive, but still substantial, intent requirement that the government prove the defendant acted while the victim engaged in a federally protected activity.

This dual intent requirement has substantially hampered the hate crimes enforcement by the Department of Justice. There are numerous examples of heinous acts of violence that DOJ has either been unable to prosecute, or has been unsuccessful in prosecuting, due to the limitations of Section 245.

One of the most egregious examples of the problems under current federal law occurred in a 1994 Texas hate crimes prosecution. A federal jury acquitted three white supremacists of civil rights violations arising out of an incident where they stalked the street of Fort Worth hunting for African-American victims. Although the jury agreed that the defendants' actions were racially motivated, they acquitted the assailants because they could not conclude that they intended to deprive the victims of a federally protected right.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would correct this deficiency by expanding the reach of federal jurisdiction to cover serious, violent bias crimes. Under the bill, hate crimes that cause death or bodily injury because of prejudice can be investigated federally, regardless of whether the victim was exercising a federally protected right.

This legislation will also address inconsistencies in the coverage of current federal, state and local bias crime provisions. Current law does not permit federal involvement in a range of cases involving crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that five states have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 states have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

Our bill will expand the jurisdiction of federal law to cover sexual orientation, gender or disability, so the federal government will no longer be handicapped in its efforts to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

In addition, through an Intergovernmental Assistance Program, federal authorities will be able to provide technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance to state and local law enforcement officials. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to state and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is endorsed by notable individuals and over 175 law enforcement, civil rights, civic and religious organizations, including: President Bush's Attorney General Dick Thornburgh; 22 State Attorney Generals; National Sheriffs' Association; International Association of Chiefs of

Police; U.S. Conference of Mayors; Presbyterian Church; Episcopal Church; and the Parent's Network on Disabilities.

Poll after poll continues to show that the American public supports hate crimes legislation, including legislation inclusive of sexual orientation. A new Kaiser Family Foundation poll released last month shows that 73 percent of Americans support hate crime legislation that includes sexual orientation.

Passage of a comprehensive law banning hate violence is long overdue. It is a federal crime to hijack an automobile or to possess cocaine, and it ought to be a federal crime to drag a man to death because of his race or to hang a man because of his sexual orientation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience and they should be subject to federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to pass H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Passage of hate crimes legislation is long overdue.

As the House of Representatives fails to act, the list of victims of hate crimes grows every day. One such victim was murdered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last month on November 11. Juana Vega was shot repeatedly by her girlfriend's brother outside her girlfriend's family home. According to friends of the victim, the suspect made repeated threats, explicitly stating that he would kill the victim because of her sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this tragic situation repeats itself far too often in our country. We must act to address it now. It is unfortunate that hate crimes occur, but they do. It is irresponsible to deny that there are individuals who seek to commit violence against an individual because they may be gay, lesbian, a woman, or disabled, the people that we seek to protect with the passage of this legislation.

It has been argued that we cannot see into a criminal's heart or mind, that we cannot determine their motive and intent, and therefore, cannot dole out appropriate justice. Yet, the most ancient concepts of justice still with us today consider the intent of those perpetrating a crime. Should we not consider the intent of a man or woman who kills or maims because of their hatred of an entire group, class, or race of people?

A Member of the other body, the former chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, said last year, "A crime committed not just to harm an individual but out of the motive of sending a message of hatred to an entire community is appropriately punished more harshly or in a different manner than other crimes."

Hate crimes are different than other violent crimes because they seek to in-

still fear in an entire community, be it burning a cross in someone's yard, the burning of a synagogue, or a rash of beatings of people in proximity to gay-identified establishments. This sort of domestic terrorism demands a strong Federal response because this country was founded on the premise that persons should be free to be who they are without the fear of violence.

Mr. Speaker, this House needs to pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act as expeditiously as possible. We need to do everything that we can to prevent hate crimes like the murder of Juana Vega.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF MEANINGFUL HATE CRIMES PREVENTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUIS), the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), and others here today to express my strong support for the passage of meaningful hate crimes prevention legislation, and in particular, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001, which I am proud to be a cosponsor of.

During these difficult times, it is critical that we stand together as one people united against a common enemy. In the past months we have witnessed the worst of humanity. On September 11, over 3,500 of our fellow human beings were murdered by extremists whose sole motivation was a pure hatred of America and the freedom and diversity that define our Nation. We must combat this horrible act by holding those responsible to account, and we must combat this horrible act by sending a powerful and clear message to the world that we are a Nation that values tolerance, acceptance, understanding; and we are a Nation that celebrates our diversity.

At no time in the great history of this Nation has it been more important for us to take a stand against hatred, scapegoating, and prejudice that can affect and destroy a society. Never has it been more important for us to reach out to our friends and neighbors of Arabic descent or of the Islamic faith, demonstrating how much we value them as members of our community.

Nothing would aggravate and undermine the forces that committed the horrible atrocities of September 11 more than redoubling our efforts to protect and respect and uphold the rights of all.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11, hate crimes against Muslim and Arab Americans and immigrants have increased all over the country. From small towns to large cities, we have

seen incidents of physical and verbal abuse. More than 1,200 cases of hate-motivated attacks or assault against members of the Muslim and Arab communities have been documented in just 3 months.

As Members of Congress, we must act now to reassure our American Muslim and Arabic communities that they and their families are safe and welcome and we value their presence in our country.

America has always been a Nation of tremendous diversity. As our men and women in uniform risk their lives to protect our way of life, nothing could send them a stronger message of support than an America that finds strength in the differences in heritage and beliefs that make us uniquely American. Bias, bigotry, scapegoating, prejudice, discrimination, and hateful persecution have no place in American society. It is time we solidified such a position with the full force of the law.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, and I quote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Mr. Speaker, as we fight to bring those who have attacked us to justice, we must not overlook the injustices that are still present in our own society. Hate crimes are serious and well-documented problems, yet they remain inadequately recognized. The current Federal hate crimes statute is limited to crimes motivated by discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin. Unfortunately, hate crimes committed in this country are broader than that. Current law excludes other communities of individuals who are victimized just as often for other reasons.

The importance of congressional action on this crucial issue cannot be overemphasized. Unlike other crimes, hate-motivated crimes not only affect individuals or families, they permanently scar entire communities. Only by recognizing and combatting these crimes can we all begin to eradicate the bias and bigotry that remains all too prevalent in today's society.

We must work to rid our schools and our neighborhoods and our communities of hatred. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to each other, and we owe it to our children who look to us for guidance.

The time has come to break down the walls of ignorance once and for all and replace them with communities built on tolerance, justice, and compassion. The perpetrators of hate crimes are not the only guilty parties. Silence, complacency, and indifference in the face of such brutal attacks are allies, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join in the fight for a Nation united against the evils of bigotry and hate directed against anyone in our society. Let us bring this legislation to the floor that has been championed by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) so valiantly over the years. Let us pass it through this House, and let us send a message to the rest of the