

and State health departments, public health laboratories, hospitals and health care facilities so that they can protect all of us in the event of further bioterrorist attack, or of other infectious disease outbreaks.

Mr. President, we in Minnesota have long been aware of the dangers of bioterrorism thanks to the efforts of Mike Osterholm, head of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. But since September 11, everywhere that I have traveled in Minnesota I have been hearing about the need for preparedness. I am very glad that this bill is providing for bioterrorism preparedness.

This bill provides block grants to states to improve public health departments and to get the equipment they need, and to help local governments safeguard their communities from these threats. The bill also provides grants to hospitals and other health care facilities to improve their abilities to respond quickly and effectively to a bioterrorist attack. I am glad this bill emphasizes getting funds to the local level. That is very important. In fact, I would have even gone further in setting aside funds specifically for localities.

I do have some reservations about the scope of the antitrust exemption the bill in its current form provides to the drug industry and others in connection with the development of countermeasures against bioterrorism. I fully understand the urgency of the situation and the need to create "safe space" for the work necessary to bring such countermeasures on line. However, I do think we need to tread carefully when it comes to further insulating the drug industry from the discipline of competitive market forces. I hope that my colleagues will work with me as we move forward on this very important measure to ensure the fullest possible protection for American consumers consistent with the development and production of necessary countermeasures.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety and Training, I am particularly glad that this bill recognizes the threat of bioterrorism in the workplace. Virtually all of the anthrax attack involved places where people work, including media offices, the U.S. Postal Service and here in the Congress. I am especially happy that this bill includes language which I had suggested to direct the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to enhance and expand research on the health and safety of workers who are at risk for biological threats or attacks in the work place.

Finally, I am particularly pleased that my provisions regarding mental health were included in this important bill. We know from the outstanding hearing on mental health and terrorism, chaired by Senator KENNEDY in the HELP committee, that the preparedness and response activities for

the mental health consequences of bioterrorism are as important as all other public health initiatives this Congress can support. Dr. Kerry Kelly, Chief Medical Officer of the New York Fire Department, reported at that hearing that since September 11, the men and women of the New York Fire Department and the families of those who were lost have had to endure a tremendous sense of grief. She said that, "the emotional well-being of our department requires intervention to provide stress debriefing, bereavement counseling, and continued psychological support of our members, our families, and the children affected by this event."

The mental health provisions in the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001 support Federal, State, and local efforts to enhance the preparedness of public health institutions, providers of medical care, and other emergency service personnel, including firefighters, to detect, diagnose, and respond to the mental health consequences of a biological threat or attack. Additionally, State and local emergency measures ensure that hospitals and health care providers have adequate capacity and plans in place to provide mental health services to meet the need of vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and the disabled. Training programs are also authorized to educate health care professionals to recognize and treat the mental health consequences of a biological threat or attack, including the consequences for children.

We know one for thing for sure. It is a mistake to believe that bioterrorism events cannot have lasting impact on the mental health of the individuals who experience them. Let us not repeat the mistakes that were made in the aftermath of the Vietnam war, when the trauma experienced by veterans was ignored or trivialized until well after the optimal time for treatment was past. We have learned from the outstanding research funded by the VA and NIMH of the severity of the disorder and the effective ways in which it can be treated. We must ensure that all Federal, State, and local public health efforts to respond to and prepare for bioterrorist attacks take advantage of this knowledge.

I do not believe that mental health problems are a widespread or inevitable consequence of bioterrorist attacks. But as we heard from the experts at the HELP hearing, we should not underestimate the severe impact that these events have on people's sense of identity and safety, and how the multiple losses and horrific experiences they go through has the potential to affect them for a long while. There have been many reports in the media of the heightened sense of anxiety and vulnerability throughout our country. These feelings are normal and I have confidence that most Americans will be able to deal with these crises. But I also firmly believe that the Fed-

eral, State, and local governments can play a major role in helping people to understand what has happened to them, and establish programs for mental health services for those who will need it. We in Congress are doing our part by the inclusion of these mental health initiatives within this bill.

In closing, this bill represents an essential step forward in safeguarding both the physical and mental health of our Nation in the event of further bioterrorist attack.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 5, 1993 on Staten Island, NY. A 22-year-old gay man allegedly was beaten by 30 youths chanting anti-gay slurs. One of the assailants, Andrew Dubitsky, 17, was charged with second-degree assault.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS IN NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to an editorial, which appeared in the New York Daily News on September 25, 2001.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, this editorial proposes that Congress should convene for a special session in New York City. Daily News rightly points out that a convening of Congress in New York City would reaffirm the American people's steadfast resolve against the cowardly perpetrators of terrorism—and that the attack on New York represented an attack on our Nation.

I am pleased to report that a bill, H. Con. Res. 249, calling for a special session of Congress to meet in New York City, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and that yesterday Senator SCHUMER and myself introduced a corresponding bill here in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, which calls for a special 1-day joint session of Congress to be held in New York City as a symbol of the Nation's solidarity with New Yorkers who epitomize the human spirit of courage, resilience, and strength.

Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SCHUMER and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Daily News, Sept. 25, 2001]

CONVENE CONGRESS IN NEW YORK

In today's primary election—so savagely interrupted two weeks ago—pundits are predicting an abysmal turnout. But today, New Yorkers, you have even more reason to go to the polls. Not only will you help to select candidates for one of the most critical elections in the city's history, you will be sending a message that our representative democracy still stands tall—the democracy that terrorists are intent on destroying.

New York was targeted because this city represents America. The U.S. Congress also represents America—figuratively and literally. So herewith, a proposal: Congress should assemble in New York City for a special session.

The duration doesn't matter—a day would be enough. What matters is that, by meeting here, Congress would show the city, the nation and the world that it stands in solidarity with New York, and that the strikes against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were strikes against an America that has emerged stronger than ever. An America united in its determination to eradicate terrorism. Indeed, the 535 members of the House and Senate could use the New York session to pass a resolution or legislation related to this new war we are waging. For it is Congress assembled that represents America.

Holding a special session here would be unprecedented, but there is nothing in the Constitution or federal law or the rules of Congress that dictates where the House and Senate shall convene. In its history, the only time Congress traveled was during the Revolution, when it fled the British. This time, it would not be fleeing, but charging into action—and doing so at the scene of the worst enemy attack ever on American soil.

Since the terror murder of thousands Sept. 11, President Bush and key members of Congress have visited the city to witness firsthand the destruction, the heroism and the stoicism. Forty members of the Senate came as a group. Consider the emotional and symbolic impact of the entire Congress assembling in New York.

And the meeting place? Perhaps the Javits Center or Governors Island or Liberty Island. Or somewhere downtown near the scene of the carnage. There would be obstacles involving logistics and security, but they can be overcome, as they were when the President and the Senate delegation visited. This proposal can be brought to fruition.

In the context of U.S. history, there are strong parallels for Congress coming to New York. The city was the home of the Continental Congress beginning in 1785. And when the federal Constitution was adopted, the first Congress met here in 1789. George Washington was sworn into office downtown, blocks from what is now Ground Zero. The first meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate were held here.

Though the official seat of power remained in New York for only about a year, during that time the basic functions of the U.S. government were set in place. It was in New York that Congress wrote the Bill of Rights and submitted the amendments to the states. It was in New York that the Supreme Court was established. And it was in New York, on another Sept. 11—in 1789—that the Senate voted to confirm the first administration's first cabinet member: New Yorker Alexander Hamilton as treasury secretary.

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia, and 10 years later to its new Capitol building in the nation's new capital city of Wash-

ington. The last time Congress did not meet at the Capitol was during the War of 1812, when the British burned the building. That was also the last time—until Sept. 11, 2001—that a foreign enemy struck the American mainland.

For generations, America was protected by two broad oceans. No more. We have become a battleground. We are making history anew. And with a simple, yet far-reaching action, Congress can come to New York and write a new chapter in the indelible ink of national fortitude. Congress already has acted to assist our wounded city, approving \$20 billion in aid for New York, with more likely to follow. What we ask for here is symbolic. Just as the terrorists chose the World Trade Center and Pentagon as symbols, America should render its own symbol—of unity, strength and resolve such as the world has never seen.

SOBERING STATISTICS ON CHILDREN AND GUNS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to enter into the RECORD a few facts about guns and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 7 hours a child or teen was killed in a firearm-related accident or suicide in 1999. From 1994–1999, an average of five children died every day in non-homicide firearm incidents. In the same period, more than 2,100 children were killed in firearm accidents. In the 1990s, an average of 1,370 kids committed suicide with a firearm each year. More than 150 each year were children under the age of fifteen. In 1997, hospital emergency rooms treated four children with gun shot wounds for every child killed with a firearm. And a 1997 CDC study reported that the overall firearm-related death rate among children in the United States who are less than fifteen years old was nearly twelve times higher than among children in twenty-five other industrialized countries combined.

These sobering statistics remind us of the importance of strengthening our gun laws to limit children's access to guns. I urge my fellow Senators to join me in support of meaningful gun safety legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DONALD E. FLEMING

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an American who has honorably served our Nation for 28 years: Colonel Donald E. Fleming, U.S. Marine Corps. Colonel Fleming has served with distinction, throughout wartime and in times of peace. In 1990 and 1991, during the Gulf War, Colonel Fleming served as the executive officer to a Harrier Attack Squadron in support of Marine ground troops in Operation Desert Storm. He was involved in numerous sorties against Iraqi forces, which enabled ground combat troops to successfully attack and take Iraqi forces. This was a highly dangerous task as Marine air-

craft were constantly exposed to enemy fire. Colonel Fleming was prepared to give his life for those Marines on the ground to be successful in completing their missions.

Colonel Fleming's last assignment was as the deputy legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. This was a highly responsible assignment in that the Colonel served not only the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate as well. Colonel Fleming was thoroughly involved with ensuring that the numerous congressional inquiries were completed in a timely and correct manner. This is a large task, especially during the hearing season, when Members of Congress and their staffs address many questions and concerns to the military departments. Additionally, Colonel Fleming was responsible for the final coordination of significant congressional and staff delegations that took place literally all over the world.

I thank Don for his unswerving dedication to serving the U.S. Congress. He has served our Nation and the U.S. Congress in the finest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. I wish Don well in his future endeavors as he enters a new phase of his life. Colonel Fleming's service to his country and his Corps has been laudatory. I am deeply appreciative that we have Marines like Colonel Fleming, who are of such high caliber and sincere conviction. May God bless Colonel Don Fleming and his family, and may fair winds and following seas follow Colonel Fleming throughout his new career.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EUGENE M. LANG I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize a remarkable individual whose efforts rank high among those that have marked the great history of this Nation. Eugene M. Lang is a dedicated philanthropist and supporter of education. His selflessness, sense of pride, and love for his country have been demonstrated in his commitment to the present and the future of young people all across America, through his I Have a Dream Foundation. This weekend, November 15–17, 2001, Mr. Lang and the Foundation will celebrate 20 years of education achievement.

The path leading up to 20 years of education successes began on June 25, 1981. It was then that Eugene Lang, a New York businessman would return to his old elementary school, P.S. 121, in East Harlem to address the graduating sixth-graders. His original plan was to deliver a standard message that if you worked hard you would succeed. However, after arriving at his alma mater, he was told that his old school had changed—that 75 percent of P.S. 121's children would never graduate from high school, and that even those who