

women and minorities in science and engineering, relative even to professions such as medicine and law, remains low.

We need to draw upon the full talent pool. Quality of education and equality of educational opportunity are central to our political future as well as to producing the workforce needed to maintain American leadership in the century ahead.

To address this challenge, the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Aberdeen and Rapid City, with the support of local and State agencies, schools, and businesses, are co-hosting Women in Science conferences in Aberdeen, Watertown, Pierre, and Hot Springs the week of March 8 through 13, 2004. Governor Rounds has declared that week to be "Women in Science Week" in South Dakota.

These conferences provide a forum for young women and girls to learn about the virtually limitless opportunities available in math- and science-related careers and to create personal connections with professional women scientists. These positive role models encourage young women to develop or continue to cultivate an interest in science and technological careers. A total of over 700 junior and senior high school students and teachers will attend these conferences.

The work of all these individuals and organizations to inspire and mentor young women, and offer role models is crucial. My special thanks and appreciation go to everyone involved in this partnership—teachers, workers, State, local, and Federal Government, academia, and businesses—who will make this a successful and an inspiring conference.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In the fall of 1999 in Washington County, PA, Ira Swearingen, a 49-year-old medical consultant was abducted, beaten and murdered. After being abducted, Swearingen was stuffed inside the trunk of his car while one of the perpetrators allegedly said, "Did ya' hear it? I broke his jaw." Another perpetrator heard gurgling of blood and heard the victim screaming. They yelled "Shut up faggot!" Later, the victim was driven to an isolated area, forced to strip and marched into the woods as he pleaded for his life at which point, one perpetrator testified, he shot the victim between the eyes at close range.

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 is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise to encourage my colleagues to support S. 1916, the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act. The purpose of this legislation is to correct a long standing inequity in survivor benefits paid to the widows and widowers of our military retirees and what is afforded survivors of other Federal retirees. This legislation would balance cost and equity considerations by phasing in an increased benefit for military surviving spouses, over a 10-year period, from 35 percent to 55 percent of retired pay after age 62.

The military Survivor Benefits Plan simply does not stack up with the Federal civilian Survivor Benefit Plan either in benefits to survivors or in intended Government cost sharing to help reduce premium costs. When you compare survivor benefits you find that the military Survivor Benefit Plan provides for 55 percent of retired pay until the widow is 62, then drops payments to 35 percent of retired pay. This dramatic drop can translate to as much as one third of the previous payment.

Survivors of Federal civilian retirees under the earlier Civilian Service Retirement System receive 55 percent of retired pay—with no drop in benefits at age 62. Under the newer Federal Employee Retirement System, survivors receive 50 percent of retired pay, again with no drop at age 62. When the military Survivor Benefit Plan was enacted, the Congress intended a 40-percent Government subsidy for cost of military Survivor Benefit Plan premiums. Over time, because of conservative actuarial cost assumptions, the Government's cost share has declined to 19 percent. This means that military retirees are now paying 81 percent of program costs from their retired pay versus the intended 60 percent. This contrasts with a Government Service Retirement System and 33 percent for the current Federal Employee Retirement System.

In closing, I submit that these inequities are unfair to the deserving survivors of military retirees and should be corrected by supporting this important measure.

#### TIBETAN UPRISING DAY

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, March 10 has been known around the world as "Tibetan Uprising Day." Today, as Tibetans remember those who died resisting Chinese occupation, we too should reflect on the struggles that have faced Tibet since that fateful day 45 years ago. The events of that day, followed by over four decades of

struggle by the Tibetan people, is a plight that has become known to many around the world.

After Chinese invasion in 1949 and despite the 1951 Seventeen Point Agreement forced upon the Tibetans by the Chinese Government, it was clear by 1958 that they had no intention of securing the preservation of Tibetan autonomy and institutions. By March 10, 1959 so many Tibetans feared for the Dalai Lama's life that they surrounded his compound as a means of protection and began protesting Chinese occupation. Only seven days later the Dalai Lama escaped to India fearing for the lives of his vigilant people. After the crowds refused orders to leave the compound and unaware of the Dalai Lama's escape, the People's Liberation Army launched an attack killing thousands of innocent civilians. It is estimated that 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested or deported to labor camps during the uprising. Many attempted escaping the communist persecution to India, but only a small percentage actually survived the difficult conditions.

The United States has long supported the Tibetan right to self-determination and has declared Tibet to be an occupied territory. In 2000 this very body passed a resolution recognizing March 10 as Tibetan Uprising Day. In fact, the United States has supported the Dalai Lama's commitment to a dialogue and has commended him for his 1989 Nobel Peace Prize recognizing his efforts to work for self-determination through non-violent means. In the Dalai Lama's statement today he said, and I quote,

My hope is that this year may see a significant breakthrough in our relations with the Chinese Government. As in 1954, so also today, I am determined to leave no stone unturned for seeking a mutually beneficial solution that will address both Chinese concerns as well as achieve for the Tibetan people a life of freedom, peace and dignity.

I, like the Dalai Lama, hope that this year will be a breakthrough year for the Tibetan cause. On the eve of the 60th Session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, let us not forget or neglect the plight of Tibetans who have struggled for too long.

I ask unanimous consent that the full statement of the Dalai Lama be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA  
ON THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

March 10, 2004

Today we commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising of 1959. I pay tribute to the many brave Tibetan men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of Tibetan freedom. They will always be remembered.

This year marks 50 years since my visit to mainland China in 1954 to meet with the then Chinese leaders, especially Mao Tse-tung. I remember very well that I embarked on the journey with deep concerns about the future of Tibet. I was assured by all the leaders I met that the Chinese presence in Tibet was to work for the welfare of the Tibetans

and "to help develop" Tibet. While in China I also learned about internationalism and socialism which deeply impressed me. So I returned to Tibet with optimism and confidence that a peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence could be worked out. Unfortunately, soon after my return China was embroiled in political unrest unleashed by radical political campaigns. These developments impacted the Chinese policy on Tibet resulting in more repression and rigidity leading finally to the Tibetan People's Uprising in March 1959.

My hope is that this year may see a significant breakthrough in our relations with the Chinese Government. As in 1954, so also today, I am determined to leave no stone unturned for seeking a mutually beneficial solution that will address both Chinese concerns as well as achieve for the Tibetan people a life in freedom, peace and dignity. Despite the decades of separation the Tibetan people continue to place tremendous trust and hope in me. I feel a great sense of responsibility to act as their free spokesman. In this regard, the fact that President Hu Jintao has personal knowledge about the situation and problems in Tibet can be a positive factor in resolving the Tibetan issue. I am therefore willing to meet with today's leaders of the People's Republic of China in the effort to secure a mutually acceptable solution to the Tibetan issue.

My envoys have established direct contact with the Chinese government on two trips to China in September 2002 and in May/June 2003. This is a positive and welcome development, which was initiated during the Presidency of Jiang Zemin. The issue of Tibet is complex and of crucial importance to Tibetans as well as Chinese peoples. Consequently, it requires careful consideration and serious deliberations on both sides before taking any decisions. It will take time, patience and determination to lead this process to a successful conclusion. However, I consider it of highest importance to maintain the momentum and to intensify and deepen this process through regular face-to-face meetings and substantive discussions. This is the only way to dispel existing distrust and misconception and to build trust and confidence.

Consequently, I have instructed my envoys to visit China at the earliest date to continue the process. I hope that they will be able to make this trip without delay. This will help in building trust and confidence in the present process among Tibetans as well as among our friends and supporters around the world—many of whom remain strongly skeptical about the willingness of Beijing to engage in a genuine process of rapprochement and dialogue.

The current situation in Tibet benefits neither the Tibetans nor the government of the People's Republic of China. The development projects that the Chinese Government has launched in Tibet—purportedly to benefit the Tibetan people—are, however, having negative effects on the Tibetan people's distinct cultural, religious and linguistic identity. More Chinese settlers are coming to Tibet resulting in the economic marginalization of the Tibetan people and the sinicization of their culture. Tibetans need to see an improvement in the quality of their life, the restoration of Tibet's pristine environment and the freedom to decide an appropriate model of development.

I welcome the release of Ani Phuntsok Nyidrol, even as we recognize the injustice of her sentence and continue to urge for the release of all political prisoners in Tibet. The human rights situation in Tibet has not seen any marked improvement. Human rights violations in Tibet have a distinct character of preventing Tibetans as a people from assert-

ing their own identity and culture. The violations are a result of policies of racial and cultural discrimination and religious intolerance.

Against this background we are encouraged and grateful that many individuals, governments and parliaments around the world have been urging the People's Republic of China to resolve the question of Tibet through peaceful negotiations. Led by the European Union and the United States there is growing realization in the international community that the issue of Tibet is not one of human rights violations alone but of a deeper political nature which needs to be resolved through negotiations.

I am also encouraged by the recent improvements in the relationship between India and China. It has always been my belief that better understanding and relations between India and China, the two most populous nations of the world is of vital importance for peace and stability in Asia in particular and in the world in general. I believe that improved relations between India and China will create a more conducive political environment for a peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue. I also strongly believe India can and should play a constructive and influential role in resolving the Tibetan problem peacefully. My "Middle-Way-Approach" should be an acceptable policy on Tibet for India as it addresses the Tibetan issue within the framework of the People's Republic of China. A solution to the Tibetan issue through this approach would help India to resolve many of her disputes with China, too.

It is 54 years since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. During Mao Zedong's period much emphasis was put on ideology, while Deng Xiaoping concentrated primarily on economic development. His successor Jiang Zemin broadened the base of the Communist Party by enabling wealthy people to become part of the Communist Party under his theory of "The Three Represents". In recent times Hu Jintao and his colleagues were able to achieve a smooth transition of leadership. During the past decades China has been able to make much progress.

But there have also been shortcomings and failures in various fields, including in the economy. One of the main causes of the shortcomings and failures seems to be the inability to deal with and act according to the true and real situation. In order to know the real and true situation it is essential that there be free information.

China is undergoing a process of deep change. In order to effect this change smoothly and without chaos and violence I believe it is essential that there be more openness and greater freedom of information and proper awareness among the general public. We should seek truth from facts—facts that are not falsified. Without this China cannot hope to achieve genuine stability. How can there be stability if things must be hidden and people are not able to speak out their true feelings?

I am hopeful that China will become more open and eventually more democratic. I have for many years advocated that the change and transformation of China should take place smoothly and without major upheavals. This is in the interest of not only the Chinese people but also the world community.

China's emergence as a regional and global power is also accompanied by concerns, suspicion and fears about her power. Hosting the Olympic Games and World Exposition will not help to dispel these concerns. Unless Beijing addresses the lack of basic civil and political rights and freedoms of its citizens, especially with regard to minorities, China will continue to face difficulties in reassuring the world that she is a peaceful, re-

sponsible, constructive and forward-looking power.

The Tibetan issue represents both a challenge and an opportunity for a maturing China to act as an emerging global player with vision and values of openness, freedom, justice and truth. A constructive and flexible approach to the issue of Tibet will go a long way in creating a political climate of trust, confidence and openness, both domestically and internationally. A peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue will have wide-ranging positive impacts on China's transition and transformation into a modern, open and free society. There is now a window of opportunity for the Chinese leadership to act with courage and farsightedness in resolving the Tibetan issue once and for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude for this consistent support that we have been receiving throughout the world. I would also like to express once again on behalf of the Tibetans our appreciation and immense gratitude to the people and the Government of India for their unwavering and unmatched generosity and support.

With my prayers for the well-being of all sentient beings.

#### TIBETAN DAY OF COMMEMORATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 1959. I sincerely hope that Chinese and Tibetan leaders will take this opportunity to work together in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue to overcome differences that have plagued relations between China and Tibet for too long.

After the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1949–1950, China and the Tibet Government signed the "Seventeen Points Agreement" to make Tibet an autonomous region in the People's Republic of China and grant the Tibetan people the right of autonomy in determining the shape of their religious, cultural, and social institutions.

Nevertheless, in the ensuing years the Chinese Government did not fulfill its commitments, leading to the 1959 Lhasa Uprising and the flight of the Dalai Lama. Forty-five years later, tens of thousands of Tibetan refugees have been forced to flee their homeland in the face of repeated oppression and human rights abuses and those that remain are still unable to practice their religion freely and preserve their cultural autonomy.

Despite this tragedy, the Dalai Lama has consistently stated that his goal is not independence for Tibet but rather cultural and religious autonomy for the Tibetan people and negotiations within the framework enunciated by Deng Xiaoping in 1979.

Last year, in his speech to commemorate the Lhasa Rebellion, the Dalai Lama said:

As far back as the early seventies in consultation with senior Tibetan officials I made a decision to seek a solution to the Tibetan problem through a "Middle Way Approach." This framework does not call for independence and separation of Tibet. At the same time, it provides genuine autonomy for the six million men and women who consider themselves Tibetans, to preserve their distinctive identity, to promote their religious