

crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On May 3, 2005, Galo Garcia was walking on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, MA, when a passing driver began yelling sexually derogatory terms at him and his companion. Garcia confronted the driver, who then allegedly beat Garcia. Garcia received cuts, bruises, and a severe concussion during the attack.

According to reports, Garcia claims he was verbally and then physically assaulted because he was walking with his arm around another man.

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

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent on Monday March 13, 2006, for rollcall vote No. 37, the confirmation of the nomination of Leo Maury Gordon, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. Unfortunately, my flight from South Dakota to Washington, DC was delayed due to bad weather. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted in favor of the nomination.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Leo Maury Gordon, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. I would have voted "aye."

#### PORT SECURITY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to address the Dubai Ports World acquisition and the subsequent announcement to transfer operation of U.S. port terminals to a U.S. entity. Last week, my colleague from New York offered an amendment to S. 2349, the Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006. While the security of our ports is my foremost concern, especially as a Senator representing a State where one of the ports in question is located, I do not believe the time or the vehicle was appropriate for a vote on Senator SCHUMER's amendment. I have been a vocal critic of this transaction for weeks, but when my colleague's amendment was offered, Dubai Ports World had already resubmitted its application to the Committee on Foreign Investment, CFIUS. A second review of the trans-

action was pending. Furthermore, I had signed onto a bipartisan letter with Senator SCHUMER and eight other Members just the week before to the majority and minority leaders. In that letter, we expressed our desire to closely examine the facts that would be presented, and we retained our right to pursue legislative action after the review was completed should the outcome prove unsatisfactory.

Then, just last Friday, DP World announced their decision to transfer the U.S. port terminals acquired from Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to a U.S. entity. While we are still seeking clarification of exactly what that means, my hope is that this decision will allay our concerns about this particular transaction. I expect a thorough review of this proposal by the appropriate agencies, and Congress assuredly has the will to act if concerns remain.

Should the immediate need for action disappear, Congress cannot ignore the underlying problems this acquisition has brought to light. First, we need to remain diligent in securing ports both domestically and abroad. Significant investments at foreign ports are critical. We cannot allow hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction to enter our ports in the first place. By then, it could be too late. Second, Congress must undertake a comprehensive review of the CFIUS process. Chairman SHELBY has already begun that process in the Banking Committee. I look forward to working with him and my colleagues to aggressively execute our oversight authority and expeditiously enact any reforms that may be necessary to ensure the safety and economic vitality of my State and this great Nation.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the above mentioned letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
Washington, DC, March 3, 2006.

Senator WILLIAM H. FRIST,  
U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

Senator HARRY REID  
U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS FRIST AND REID: As you know, we recently joined together to introduce S. 2333, The Foreign Investment Security Act of 2006, a bill to require a 45-day CFIUS investigation and a Presidential determination regarding the national security implications of Dubai Port World's takeover of Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Company. This bill stemmed from our joint concern that allowing the takeover of U.S. terminal operations after only a cursory review raised serious national security concerns.

The President and the companies have now moved voluntarily to provide for such a 45-day investigation, and we are encouraged by that decision. Though some of us remain troubled about how this new review will proceed given the Administration's continued support of the deal, we have decided not to press for a vote on our bill at this time in

the hope that this new investigation will be thorough, fair, and independent.

Nevertheless, several key components of our legislation have yet to be addressed namely, the notification to Congress and the ability of Congress to disapprove the deal within thirty days if security concerns are not met.

As a result, we write to ask for your assistance in guaranteeing that:

(a) the Congress is kept fully informed as the 45-day review progresses, and notified how security concerns are being investigated and addressed;

(b) the Congress is provided 30 days to review the results of the report including reasoning for the decision to either approve or disapprove of the deal; and

(c) once this 45-day review period is over, Congress reserves the ability to vote to disapprove the deal if the security concerns have not been adequately addressed.

We hope you will work with us and with the Administration to ensure that this review is a thorough, effective look at whether this deal truly poses a threat to our national security. If we need to press for a vote on our legislation or to introduce further legislation to achieve the goals outlined above, we hope you will work with us in the coming weeks. The Administration must know that we stand united to examine and review this deal independently, and that Congress must have a role in determining whether it should go forward or be stopped as a result of national security concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez,  
Hillary Rodham Clinton, Jack Reed,  
Frank Lautenberg, Norm Coleman,  
Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins, Dr.  
Tom Coburn, M.D., Rick Santorum,  
Members of Congress.

#### VISIT OF LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, tomorrow, we will convene for a Joint Session of Congress to hear comments by the new Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

I hope that we will give her a warm welcome and send her home to the 3.3 million people of Liberia with a simple and strong message: We will stand by you as you work day-by-day to build a safer, more prosperous country.

It is an exciting and hopeful time for the people of Liberia. Civil conflict has been replaced by civil discourse. Free and fair Presidential elections have taken place, with dozens of candidates and three-fourths of voters turning out to shape the country's future.

Looking back, it is clear what the Liberian people were voting for when they elected President Sirleaf: honest government, economic growth, an expansion of infrastructure, and greater opportunity for all Liberians, regardless of gender.

They also chose a leader with three decades of experience. President Sirleaf has served as Finance Minister in Liberia, and she has also held high-level positions at the United Nations and World Bank.

It is no surprise that in just 8 weeks in her new job, President Sirleaf is already making progress. She has taken bold steps to reduce corruption, and she has rightly emphasized the need to

get ex-combatants into schools and jobs. After more than a decade of conflict, this is vitally important.

Now, Liberians in every part of the country are turning to President Sirleaf's government for things like clean water, electricity, health care, roads, and jobs. These are enormous challenges for the Government of Liberia, but they are also opportunities. They are opportunities to educate, to employ, to strengthen the rule of law, and to consolidate the peace. These opportunities are the bedrock of Liberia's great hope.

We have an opportunity also. It is an opportunity to partner with more than 3 million people as they rebuild their country from conflict, using the bricks and glue of peace. And it is an opportunity to demonstrate to all the people of West Africa—and the world—that greater riches flow from peace than from any form of violence.

In the last 2 fiscal years, Congress has appropriated almost \$900 million to reconstruction efforts in Liberia. Many Americans have participated personally in this noble work, through USAID, other government agencies, and many NGOs.

We must continue these efforts. President Sirleaf and the people of Liberia have embraced democracy and peace. We must embrace them as our friends.

#### NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to publicly discuss the importance of the Project Safe Place Program and extend my support for designating the week of March 13, 2006, as "National Safe Place Week."

Project Safe Place is a nationally acclaimed youth outreach and education program that provides immediate help and support to youth who are in crisis or at risk for abuse, neglect, or serious family problems. This easily replicated community initiative, which takes place in more than 700 communities around the country, educates thousands of young people every year about dealing with difficult, threatening situations such as child abuse, substance addiction, crime, and family problems. Qualified agencies, trained volunteers, and community partners such as businesses, local government, and law enforcement agencies, work together to sustain Safe Places where youth in crisis can gain immediate, free, and confidential assistance. Safe Place sites, which are designated by distinctive yellow and black Safe Place signs, include youth-friendly businesses, schools, fire stations, libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and even buses.

S. Res. 390 provides an opportunity to recognize the youth-serving agencies, community partners, counselors, and trained volunteers who work together to sustain safe places for children to turn to. We can show them that they have our support and appreciation and that we value communities actively

working together to help young people in crisis.

Throughout my tenure as a legislator, I have done my best to support initiatives that work to improve child welfare. Our Nation's children are its greatest asset and our most precious treasure. It is vital that we help them get the right start, nurture their development, and provide for their well being. Quality childcare, nutrition programs, children's health initiatives, and overall poverty reduction measures are critical to ensuring that the children have the tools they need to grow up safe, happy, and healthy. Providing services for at-risk youth is particularly essential because these young men and women often do not have the support that would help them through the transition from childhood to adulthood. These services can help young people continue their education, find jobs, and improve family relationships.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join me in supporting this resolution. This resolution will affirm the work of those individuals and organizations sustaining Safe Places around the country and encourage them to continue making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth.

#### MICHAEL BERMAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my dear friend of over 30 years, Michael Berman, has just written his memoir, "Living Large: A Big Man's Ideas on Weight, Success and Acceptance." Mike possesses one of the most astute political minds along with a generous heart and kind soul. I am proud of his courage in writing about his struggle with weight control and hope his book will encourage others to honestly confront and overcome their weight challenges.

This week, both The Washington Post and Roll Call reviewed Mike's book. I ask unanimous consent that those articles be printed at this point in the RECORD.

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

[From the Roll Call, Mar. 14, 2006]

#### WEIGHING IN ON WEIGHT

(By Elizabeth Brotherton, Roll Call Staff)

Michael Berman is kind of a big deal.

Now president of the lobbying firm the Duberstein Group Inc., Berman has worked on every Democratic presidential campaign since 1964. He was even deputy chief of staff to former Vice President Walter Mondale.

That's on top of all the nonprofit boards he sits on.

But to Berman, there has been one lingering thing that has followed him all those years: his weight.

See, Michael Berman is kind of a big deal. "Food," Berman said. "It's like a drug."

Berman's lifelong struggle with food is chronicled in his new book, "Living Large: A Big Man's Ideas on Weight, Success, and Acceptance," set to hit bookstores Wednesday.

Berman said he wrote the book primarily because in all his years of reading weight loss books, he rarely found one about over-

weight men. Even more rare was trying to find a book written by an overweight man.

So he decided to provide that voice.

"I'm hoping that some people will come to understand more of what fat people go through," Berman said.

Berman said the book, which he co-authored with writer Laurence Shames, took seven years to complete.

"It really became kind of a vehicle to help me," Berman said of the book. "It kind of helped me stay on path with my weight management."

Berman, who has struggled with food since he was a child, has always been conscious of his weight. He has tried every diet imaginable, he said, from South Beach and Atkins to even undergoing two hospitalized starvation diets. He once hallucinated cheeseburgers.

But whenever he managed to get his weight under control, it would shoot back up again.

The 66-year-old tipped the scales at 317 pounds in January 1999. (He now weights 240 pounds, he said.)

"I really have the view, for really fat people like myself there's a significant psychological component as to why we are fat," Berman said. "There's some issues, some of which kind of get revealed in the book."

"Living Large" reads a lot like a biography. Berman talks about his childhood, meeting his wife and his career in politics.

He also includes first-hand views from his wife, Carol, on how his heavy stature has affected their marriage.

"One day, I said to her, 'Why don't you write a chapter called: 'Living with a fat man: A Spouse's Perspective' he said. 'I just came to realize that I had an enormous effect on her.'"

Only parts of his wife's chapter made it into the book (the entire section is available on Berman's Web site, [www.mikelivinglarge.com](http://www.mikelivinglarge.com)). But Berman also manages to touch on some serious issues.

For example: Why did he gain weight at certain times? How has his weight affected his life and the lives of those around him?

Plus, he deals with the issues behind his significant weight, issues he has kept secret for quite some time.

"I feel like, OK. I've shared this stuff with the psychologist I had all these years, and I'm really comfortable with myself," Berman said. "I just became more and more comfortable."

The book's release comes at a time when the United States appears to be losing the war against obesity.

About 119 million adults in the United States—64.5 percent of the adult population—are either overweight or obese, according to the nonprofit group Trust for America's Health.

Obesity has been linked to a slew of serious health problems, from diabetes and heart disease to strokes and some cancers, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

That means the issue will be relevant—and political—for quite some time, Berman said.

"It's going to kind of be an issue of, 'Are we going to apply resources to beginning education campaigns to show young people that we are going to do something about it?'" he said. "I think it's increasingly going to be a political issue. But it is going to be a resource issue."

Berman said that he now has created a manageable situation for controlling his weight. He monitors his daily calorie intake in a meticulous journal, and he regularly gets on the scale.

"I'm never going to be a thin person," Berman said. "But, by golly, maybe I can keep (my weight) in a somewhat healthy range."