

anti-gay epithets at Geske and punching him in the face repeatedly. Reeling from the attack, Geske's arm fell through the passenger side window, where another attacker grabbed onto it. The driver then got back in the car and sped off with Geske's arm still trapped. The victim was dragged several blocks before he broke free, suffering scrapes and sprained fingers in the process. The attack is being investigated as a bias crime and the assailants are still at large.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

TIBET

Mr. SMITH. Mr President, I rise today to speak about the recent violence in Tibet.

I am deeply saddened and angered by the events which have unfolded this past month between ethnic Tibetans and China. In March, China's decades of repression of Tibet exploded into widespread riots, both in the Tibetan autonomous region and ethnic Tibetan areas of China. The Chinese Government responded by imposing a near-total media blackout, and by deploying an overwhelming number of police and military personnel. Within that darkness, dozens of people were killed.

It is still unclear who did the killing, or who was killed. It is unclear what set off the violence. It is even unclear how many people were killed. The Chinese Government claims 22 deaths; independent Tibetan sources say between 79 and 140. There have been a similarly disputed number of people arrested.

One of government's primary functions is to enforce law and order within its borders. But the unrest and violence in Tibet is the direct result of over 50 years of Chinese oppression of Tibetan ethnic, cultural, and political rights. It is the result of China's repression of Tibetan Buddhism and a stream of personal insults against the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama, whom I am greatly honored to have met, is honored for his commitment to peace and reconciliation. I cannot think of a time when such a message is more welcome than it is today.

China, on the other hand, offers no similar message of tolerance and peace. Just this morning, there was an article in the Washington Post, in which a human rights lawyer and convert to Christianity lives under constant police surveillance. He is intermittently

beaten and harassed by police, who sometimes prohibit him from attending church. For ethnic Tibetans, Chinese human rights violations can be much worse. China's efforts over the past half century to repress Tibetan rights are unacceptable, outrageous and in violation of China's own laws.

I know that many of my fellow Americans stand with me in this belief. As such, I was proud to introduce with my colleague from California a resolution calling on China to ensure the protection of Tibetan rights and culture. The resolution demands that China allow a full and transparent accounting of the recent violence. China must cease the political reeducation of monks, and allow them to possess pictures of the Dalai Lama. It must also release peaceful protestors, and allow independent journalists free access throughout China. In addition, the resolution calls on the U.S. State Department to fully implement the 2002 Tibet Policy Act, particularly the establishment of a U.S. consulate in Lhasa.

I was exceptionally pleased to note that my resolution was unanimously agreed to last night. I believe these measures would go a long way toward safeguarding Tibetan rights, easing the suffering of ethnic Tibetans, and preventing the outbreak of any further violence.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I talk about public health. As I hope many of my colleagues are aware, this week is National Public Health Week, and this year's goal is to increase the Nation's awareness of the serious effects of global warming on the public's health.

When I say global warming, people think of many things. You might think of polar bears, vanishing glaciers, or rising sea levels, but you are not likely to think of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is unfortunate because there is a direct connection between global warming and the health of our Nation.

A warming planet will affect food, water, shelter, and the spread of infectious diseases. At the same time, we will face more extreme weather events. Storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves will have an acute impact, particularly on hundreds of millions of people in the developing world.

Climate change is very much a public health issue.

The science behind global warming is no longer debatable. Scientists from around the globe have stated in the strongest possible terms that the climate is changing, and human activity is to blame. These changes are already dramatically affecting human health around the world.

The World Health Organization reported that the climate change which occurred from 1961 to 1990 may already be causing over 150,000 deaths or the loss of over 5.5 million disability-adjusted life years annually starting in 2000.

These numbers are staggering, but they should not be surprising: climate change influences our living environment on the most fundamental level, which means it affects the basic biological functions critical to life.

It impacts the air we breathe and the food available for us to eat. It impacts the availability of our drinking water and the spread of diseases that can make us sick.

Last year's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report on climate change put to rest the arguments of many skeptics. But the frequently cited report of Working Group One is just one of three separate IPCC reports. Working Group Two simultaneously issued a sobering report on the impacts of climate change. They predicted that up to 250 million people across Africa could face water shortages by 2020, and that agriculture fed by rainfall could drop by 50 percent. Crop yields in central and South Asia could drop by 30 percent. People everywhere who depend on glaciers or snow pack for their drinking water will be forced to find new supplies.

This is not speculation. These effects are already measurable. The World Health Organization predicts that asthma deaths will rise by 20 percent over the next 10 years, and that climate change is causing greater outbreaks of Rift Valley fever and the spread of malaria in higher elevations in Africa, and more frequent cholera epidemics in Bangladesh. The CDC is preparing for more heat-wave planning and forecasting.

The public health costs of global climate change are likely to be greatest to the nations of the world who have contributed least to the problem. As the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, we have a moral obligation to help these countries, which are also least likely to have the resources to prepare or respond themselves. Any strategies for managing climate change impacts must address this unequal burden, and to take into account their unique challenges and needs.

These impacts are different in different parts of the world—and equally troubling, they are disproportionately burdensome for the world's more vulnerable populations. Children, the elderly, the poor, and those with chronic and other health conditions are the most vulnerable to the negative health impacts of climate change.

There is growing recognition that we must act, and we must act now. Fortunately, many of the choices individuals should make for the sake of their health—and the health of their communities—are the same choices that benefit the health of the planet. Making the climate change issue real means helping people understand how the way they live affects themselves and others, whether through their transportation choices, their use of water and electricity or the types of goods they purchase and consume.

What is good to reduce global warming is good for public health, and the shift away from fossil fuels and a movement toward general environmental awareness aligns with existing public health goals.

Clean, renewable energy means less dependence on fossil fuels. The combination of less coal and cleaner coal leads to a host of health benefits. Fewer particulate emissions mean less asthma. Reduced mercury emissions could lead to fewer developmental disorders.

The transportation sector is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases. Encouraging and enabling people to walk, bicycle, or use public transportation reduces vehicle greenhouse gas emissions and improves urban air quality. But it simultaneously improves an individual's health by increasing physical activity. Improving community design to reduce reliance on cars also means less obesity and diabetes. We should be encouraging States to design and create healthy communities.

We cannot wait to act. We should all continue to work toward national and international policies which fight global warming. And we will make sure that we act justly and help the poorest countries, which are hardest hit by this problem.

And we can start now. Now is the time to prepare our water, agricultural, and disease prevention systems for a warmer planet. Now is also the time to invest in renewable energy and to build pedestrian and bicycle friendly cities. What is good for the planet is good for public health, and I encourage everyone to remember that solutions to a global problem can have immediate, individual benefits.

SECOND CHANCE ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the Presidential signing of a bill that was two and a half Congresses in the making, the Second Chance Act. This bill, which focuses on reinventing the way in which we create prison reentry programs, will have a dramatic and positive effect on hundreds of thousands of lives—lives that will be changed for the better.

I am equally pleased that the President signaled his support for this much needed legislation by hosting a bill signing ceremony this morning at the White House. I was delighted to join my colleagues in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the organizations that helped make this bill a reality—it was truly a magnificent event.

Over 650,000 individuals will be released from our Federal and State prisons, and 9 million are released from jails. Approximately two out of every three individuals released from prison or jail commit more crimes and will be rearrested within 3 years of release, placing increasing financial burdens on

our States and decreasing public safety.

Recidivism is costly, in both personal and financial terms. Consider: The American taxpayers spent approximately \$9 billion per year on corrections in 1982 and in 2002—nearly two decades later—taxpayers spent \$60 billion. This current criminal justice system is not working, does not make our cities and States safer and is unacceptable and must be addressed.

The Second Chance Act will address these major issues in the area of corrections. By providing grant money to States through the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor, the bill encourages the creation of innovative programs geared toward improving public safety, decreasing the financial burden on States and successfully re-integrating ex-offenders into society.

Additionally, this bill authorizes two grant programs designed to aid non-profit organizations—faith-based and community-based organizations—that provide programs to those incarcerated. As you may know, faith-based programs are very successful in re-integrating offenders into society. A 2002 study found that faith-based prison programs result in a significantly lower rate of re-arrest than vocation-based programs—16 percent versus 36 percent.

I and my Senate and House colleagues have worked extremely hard over the past 4 years on this measure that encompasses Federal, State, local, and nonprofit programs. I would especially like to thank Ranking Member SPECTER, Chairman BIDEN, and Chairman LEAHY. Our partnership over the last years has been a true testament to bipartisanship. We were able to put aside our policy differences for the good of those in need and come together on a bill that will provide hope and aid to those incarcerated. The bill will also provide assistance to those most vulnerable and often overlooked—the children of incarcerated parents. Nearly half of all prisoners have children, and it is estimated that one in five of those children will follow their parent into the prison system—this broken system must change, and the Second Chance Act will facilitate such needed change.

Indeed this bill is much needed and will serve as a catalyst for systemic change. This bill is supported by the hard work and determination of over 200 organizations, such as Prison Fellowship Ministries, Open Society, the Council of State Governments, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as many State and local government correction officials and law enforcement officials—a truly bipartisan/bicameral coalition of partners committed to changing the criminal justice system.

I commend the tremendous—truly tremendous work these organizations completed on behalf of this bill. Without their partnership, the bill may not have become reality. Through their

perseverance and help, much needed re-entry resources will be funded to help give those in our prison system a second chance at life. Through substance abuse programs, education, and job training programs, those incarcerated will be given a second chance to be productive citizens. Perhaps most importantly, prisoners will be given a second chance to reconnect with their families through family-based treatment and mentoring programs.

This is a monumental bill that will change the lives of countless individuals and will keep our communities safer by reducing recidivism rates drastically—the goal, 50 percent in 5 years—and it can be done.

Kansas has proven it. In slightly less time than it took us to enact this bill—3 years—Kansas cut their monthly revocation rate by 44 percent . . . 44 percent. I understand that they can also track the recidivism rate for ex-offenders in the 12–18 months of a parolee's release. Even more striking, the State has been able to reduce, by 41 percent, the number of criminal convictions over the last 3 years—proving that re-entry programs work.

This is amazing, and I know that with the aid of the Second Chance Act other States are on their way to these successes as well.

I would like to also take a moment to recognize State Representative Pat Colloton from Kansas who was also here today to share in this celebration and is one of the leaders in Kansas on this issue.

Mr. President, this has been a great day for the supporters of the Second Chance Act. I commend them for their efforts, and I ask unanimous consent that the full list of organizations that support this program be printed in the RECORD for their outstanding work on this issue.

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

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

Access Community Health Network of Chicago; Addictions Coalition of Delaware, Inc.; AdvoCare, Inc., Hancock, MD; All of Us or None Oklahoma; Alliance for Children and Families; Alston Wilkes Society, South Carolina; Alvis House, Inc., Columbus, OH; American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; American Bar Association; American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association; American Center for Law and Justice; American Conservative Union; American Correctional Association; American Correctional Chaplains Association; American Counseling Association; American Jail Association; American Probation and Parole Association; American Psychological Association; The Arc of the United States; Arizona Statewide TASC: Treatment Assessment & Screening Center.

Association for Better Living and Education; Association of Citizens for Social Reform; Association of State Correctional Administrators; A T Roseborough & Associated, Inc.; ATTIC Corrections Services, Inc., Madison, WI; BASICS, Inc.—Bronx, New York; Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; BOP Watch; The Bronx Defenders; Broward County Regional Project Safe Neighborhoods Task