

The second question our Nation must answer is: How can we put an end to hate violence?

The American people must take action. A resolution will require a united and determined partnership of elected officials, law enforcement entities, businesses, community organizations, churches and religious organizations and schools.

Congress must also take action. Yes, statistics have shed light on the prevalence of hate crimes in our society, however hate crimes are often under reported. Although we gathered significant information as a result of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, this act makes the reporting of hate crimes by State and local jurisdictions voluntary, leaving gaps in information from various jurisdictions.

As such, I call for immediate passage of the Hate Crime Prevention Act, and I ask that we all join together. But most significant, non action translates into silence, and as Martin Luther King stated, We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

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

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

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a sad occasion that as we are about to enter the next millennium that we do have to stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives still asking that all people be treated fairly. I listened to the word of my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), when he stated that this country was built upon the notion that all men are created equal. Unfortunately, I have to disagree with that because our history in this country shows that unfortunately we do not consider African Americans equal, we do not consider women equal, but we are learning, and we are moving. And it would be my hope that as we are about to enter to the next millennium, that we would understand the error of our ways, and move forward and let it be known that we understand the history, the true history, of this country, and we are going to rectify it and not allow those individuals who become victims of hate to continue to suffer. We in this House, Mr. Speaker, must send a loud and clear message that those who want to hate others because they are different than they, it will not be tolerated.

In my lifetime I have seen individuals lynched and no one called to jus-

tice. In my lifetime, and we are not talking about a long time ago, I have seen individuals spat upon because of a different sexual orientation. I wish that we did not have to be here, but in 1999, in 1998, we had incidences like James Byrd dragged to death in the back woods by three white supremacists. We had Matthew Sheppard brutally murdered by three young men who despised his sexual orientation. We had places of worship, three synagogues in Sacramento, destroyed by arson. African American churches throughout the south still burned down. Bomb threats, death threats to the Muslim community immediately following the Oklahoma bombings.

Tolerance is not in America yet. All these situations have one thing in common. They were the results of hate crimes committed due to the ignorance and nontolerance of individuals.

This Nation has consistently prided itself on its acceptance of all people; at least, that is what we say. What we have an opportunity now to do is to put our actions behind our words, for words alone mean nothing. It is the action behind the words that give the words value.

We commend ourselves, and I can know, sitting in the House, we talk about all other countries we do not want to do business with because we say that they are human rights violations. Well, we must first make sure that we take care of our own family and make sure that we are standing on the proper moral ground to begin with because how can you condemn someone else when you are not standing strong to make sure that your own home is in the best of shape?

During the 1960's, for example, people of all colors, races and creeds came together to fight against the racial intolerance that was directed specifically that time against African Americans and other minorities, and as a result of that united effort, this body passed major legislation known as the Civil Rights Act as a statement and tried to put some teeth and power behind the words: All men; and we should say all men and women; are created equal.

It is now time for us to take an additional step in that direction by attaching the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to the Commerce, Justice and the State appropriations bill. This act will make the intent of Congress clear and will put power behind the words that we will not tolerate hate crimes.

In conclusion, Dr. King said: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Let us make our voices loud and clear; let us put power behind our words.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER A MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule

XXII, I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501 tomorrow. The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on the Senate amendment to bill, H.R. 1501, be instructed to insist that the committee of conference should immediately have its first substantive meeting to offer amendments and motions including gun safety amendments and motions; and 2, the committee of conference report a conference substitute by October 20, the 6-month anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and with sufficient opportunity for both the House and the Senate to consider gun safety legislation prior to adjournment. H.R. 1501 is the Juvenile Justice Reform act of 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The form of the motion will appear in the RECORD.

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

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

PASS THE HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, first, as we begin this evening, I want to associate myself with the comments of my colleagues this evening concerning Matthew Sheppard and all of those who have found themselves the victims of hate crimes and the great necessity to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act as quickly as possible.

This evening I am joining with colleagues to speak out in support of efforts to restore Medicare cuts that have been too deep and have gone on too long, and we have an opportunity in this session before we leave to fix it, and we need to do that as quickly as possible.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included numerous cuts to Medicare payments, to health care providers, and the original intent was to slow the growth of the costs of Medicare by cutting approximately \$115 billion over 5 years. Recently the Congressional Budget Office has projected, however, that Medicare spending has been reduced by almost twice that amount. Clearly Congress went too far.

These are not simply numbers that we are talking about. These are people, these are families, these are doctors and nurses trying to provide care,