Special Education (1996–99), and the AB 602 Special Disabilities Working Group.

This important work is no less important to excellent education than is the day-to-day dedication of parents, teachers and other administrators; for if the school system lacked the administrative and financial resources to do its job, school literally could not open. Even so, David took this critical financial stewardship task to a higher level by continually taking great care to ensure that his work in school system budgets was related to the real, day-to-day educational needs of students, and professional needs of teachers and administrators. For many years, he served hour upon hour as a volunteer tutor in a local San Diego area elementary school.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that Mr. David Gross is a friend of education and a friend to America, and a dedicated and gifted public servant whose hard work and great talent will be honored and missed by his friends and colleagues.

HELSINKI FINAL ACT 25TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution commemo-
rating the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the Helsinki processes which sign-
ing represents a milestone in European his-
tory. As Chairman of the Commission on Se-
curity and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, I have been privi-
leged to be associated with the Helsinki proc-
ess and the central role in advancing human
rights, democracy and the rule of law in Eu-
rope. I am pleased to be joined by my fellow
Helsinki Commissioners Representatives Hoyer, Wolf, Cardin, Salmon, Slaughter, Greenwood, Forbes and Pitts as original co-
sponsors. A companion resolution is being in-
troduced today in the Senate by Helsinki Com-
mission CoChair Sen. Ben Nighthorse Camp-
bell.

The Helsinki Final Act and the process it
spawned has been instrumental in consigning the Communist Soviet Empire—responsible for untold violations of human rights—into the dustbin of history. With its language on human
rights, the Helsinki Final Act, for the first time,
was related to the real, day-to-day educational
needs—now advanced in the forum of the Orga-
nization for Security and Cooperation in Eu-
rope—greatly contributed to the freeing of the
peoples of the Captive Nations, thus bringing
an end to the Cold War. The Helsinki Com-
mission, on which I have served since 1983, has
played a significant role in promoting human
rights and human contacts. The congressional
initiatives such as hearings, resolutions, letters
and face-to-face meetings with representatives
of Helsinki signatories which violated human
rights commitments, encouraged our own gov-
ernment to raise these issues consistently and
persistently. The Commission’s approach at
various Helsinki meetings has always been to
encourage a thorough and detailed review of
compliance with Helsinki agreements. Specific
cases and issues are cited, rather than engag-
ing in broad, philosophical discussions about
human rights. With the passage of time—and
with the leadership of the United States—this
more direct approach in pressing human rights
concerns has become the norm. In fact, by 1991
the Helsinki signatory states accepted
that human dimension commitments “are mat-
ters of direct and legitimate concern to all par-
ticipating States and do not belong exclusively
to the internal affairs of the state concerned.”

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and
Yugoslavia, the OSCE region has changed dra-
-matically. In many States, we have wit-
nessed dramatic transformation and a consoli-
dation of the core OSCE values of democracy,
human rights and the rule of law. In others,
there has been little if any progress, and in
some, armed conflicts have resulted in hun-
dreds of thousands having been killed and in
the grotesque violation of human rights. The
OSCE, which now includes 54 participating
States, has changed to reflect the changed interna-
tional environment, undertaking a vari-
ety of initiatives designed to prevent, manage,
and resolve conflict and emphasizing respect
for the rule of law, more so than against organ-
ized crime and corruption, which constitute a threat
to economic reform and prosperity. The Hel-
sinki process is still dynamic and active, and
the importance of a vigorous review in which
countries are called to account for violations
of their freely undertaken Helsinki commit-
ments has not diminished.

This resolution calls on the President to
issue a proclamation reaffirming the United
States’ commitment to full implementation of
the Helsinki Final Act. All signatory states
would be asked to clarify that respect for
human rights and fundamental freedoms,
democratic principles as well as economic lib-
erty, and the implementation of related com-
mitments continue to be vital elements in pro-
moting a new era of democracy, peace and
unity in the OSCE region. In the twenty-five
years since the Helsinki process was initiated
in Helsinki, there have been many successes.
Mr. Speaker, the task is still far from complete,
and we must continue to do our part in champ-
inizing the values that Helsinki espouses.

WESTERN PRESSURE THROUGH THE HELSINKI PROCESSES

Western pressure through the Helsinki proc-
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HATE CRIMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, sit-
ing on a bench, riding on a bus, or even walk-
ing down the street, a hate crime can occur any-
time or any place. Hate crimes are acts of
pure unadulterated evil, wronging someone
because they are different. People should not
and cannot live in fear because of their race,
color, religion or sexual orientation; it is time
that we take the strongest course of action to
prevent these crimes.

Over the past decade the number of hate
crimes has risen rapidly, consummating with
1999’s “summer of hate.” If taking anything
positive from this infamous period is possible
it is, that we have not done enough to prevent
such crimes. Committing a hate crime is the
most serious of offenses. It is our duty to
make the punishment severe enough to deter
even the most prejudicial person from consid-
ering a crime of this size. We in Congress
have the ability and the opportunity to prevent
the possible consequences of bias from occur-
ring.

Today, as we commemorate the second an-
iversary of James Byrd’s tragic death, we
must pledge upon ourselves to do everything
in our power to reduce the number of hate
crimes. No one should ever be forced to fear
a hate crime, or any other crime for that matter,
and we must renew and maintain our focus of
the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1082),
to ensure that crimes cease.