

I ask Congress to now act on an energy bill that the House of Representatives passed back in August. . . . Too much of our energy comes from the Middle East. The plan I sent up to Congress promotes conservation, expands energy supplies, and improves the efficiency of our energy network. Our country needs greater energy independence. The issue is a matter of national security, and I hope the Senate acts quickly.

We have many other quotes. I will mention a last one from the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, the other day:

The President has said very clearly this is a priority. This situation—

Referring to September 11—

has made it more urgent, and we need to begin moving the process. We have always said that national security is part of the reason we need to get the energy program in place, and we certainly have not backed away from that position now that September 11 has occurred.

So I think there is nothing more important to deal with between now and the end of the session than a comprehensive energy bill. Let's at least bring it up for a vote. That is what this is supposed to be about, so we can debate this issue. We can't really debate this issue, other than the way I am doing it now, in anticipation of a vote, unless we have an opportunity to have a vote. So I think you are going to see this offered again as an amendment. The logical place should be on the economic stimulus package, because this is an economic stimulus issue, as well as a national security issue.

I yield the floor.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred Jan. 28, 2000, in Boston, MA. A group of high school teenagers sexually assaulted and attacked a 16-year-old Boston High School student on the subway because she was holding hands with another young girl, a common custom from her native African country. Thinking the victim was a lesbian, the group began groping the girl, ripping her clothes, and pointing at their own genitals. Officials said a teenage boy who was with the group allegedly pulled a knife on the girl, held it to her throat and threatened to slash her. The girl later passed out from being beaten. Three high school students were arrested in the attack and charged with civil rights violations, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and indecent assault and battery.

I believe that 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 of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### ASKING SAVES KIDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, PAX is an organization that promotes practical, non-political solutions to the problem of gun violence. Asking Saves Kids or ASK is a national advertising campaign, developed by PAX in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics. The ASK campaign urges parents to ask their neighbors if they have a gun in the home before sending their child over to play. To help parents with what is a difficult question, the ASK campaign has developed a "Parent's Help Kit". The kit contains tips on how to ask the question about guns in the home, a sample letter to mail to other parents, and non-confrontational ways to respond to friends and relatives who may take exception to the question. The Help Kit is an invaluable tool in the fight to protect children from gun violence and I encourage parents to visit the PAX web site and download a copy of the Help Kit. The web site address is [http://www.gunviolence.org/pdf/ASK\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.gunviolence.org/pdf/ASK_Kit.pdf).

#### IN MEMORY OF KATHY T. NGUYEN

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, yesterday, we received tragic news: Kathy Nguyen, a 61-year old Bronx woman who worked at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital on East 64th Street, passed away from inhalation anthrax. Her death, she is the fourth person in our country to die from anthrax, has saddened New York, and our entire country. Ms. Nguyen, who worked at the hospital since 1991, was a clerk in the stockroom in the basement of the hospital.

Ms. Nguyen came to America from Vietnam in 1977 with the help of a New York City police officer. Like many refugees from Vietnam, she left without any money, and started a new life for herself in America. She settled in the Bronx' Crotona Park East area near the Bronx River. She married an American, but later divorced. They had a son, who tragically died in a car accident years ago.

Ms. Nguyen's friends and neighbors have spoken kindly about the tiny, generous woman who had no family of her own, but always inquired about their families. She enjoyed cooking meals for her neighbors and their families, even sharing Thanksgiving dinner, and was known for her fondness for offering coworkers food.

Working afternoons and evenings at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Ms. Nguyen was responsible for stocking the emergency room and operating rooms with medicine and instruments. She sometimes returned

home as late as 11pm. Her neighbors noted her late working hours and said that she was planning on retiring. Although she did not handle mail, it has been reported that the supply room where she worked was adjacent to the hospital's mailroom.

Last Thursday night, Ms. Nguyen complained to her neighbors that she was feeling ill, but she brushed it off as a cold. She went to work as usual on Friday, but by Sunday night, she felt worse and the superintendent of her building brought her to the emergency room at the Lenox Hill Hospital. She was in critical condition in the intensive care unit with pneumonia and was placed on a respirator. Initial tests showed anthrax and additional tests confirmed the diagnosis on Tuesday afternoon. Although she fought hard to battle this terrible infection, she passed away.

Ms. Nguyen was too ill to aid investigators who sought to retrace her movements before she became sick to determine the source of the anthrax and it remains a mystery. Federal and local health officials are vigorously pursuing all avenues to uncover the source of the anthrax that sickened Ms. Nguyen.

I know that Ms. Nguyen's friends and neighbors will miss her greatly. Her kindness and concern for her neighbors were a special part of the Bronx neighborhood where she lived. Her everyday courtesies, in a city that is known for its anonymity and incredible size, made the world a little smaller, and a little nicer, for her neighbors.

#### COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been seven weeks since the horrifying attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the crash of the plane in Pennsylvania.

We have all struggled with a flood of thoughts and emotions about the frightening and tragic loss of life, the national response to this cruel, mindless assault on innocent people, and where we go from here.

My wife Marcelle and I have received hundreds of phone calls, letters and e-mails from people who have offered thoughtful suggestions, and I have read many articles, opinion pieces, and heartfelt letters to the editor of the national and local newspapers.

I do not pretend to have all the answers. No one does. The United States military is carrying out bombing missions against the Taliban and terrorist sites in Afghanistan. The situation is unpredictable, and we are learning more each day. But I do want to express some of my thoughts at this time.

First and foremost, my thoughts are with the victims' families. It has been hard, very hard, to see the images of the families as they try to come to terms with the loss of loved ones.

I also share the pride in how our firefighters, police and other emergency