

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.

#### A REPORT ON OUR NATION'S GUN LAWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence recently published a report highlighting the progress made in state laws to protect children from guns and gun violence. The evaluation focused on a number of laws addressing juvenile possession of guns, safe storage, childproof guns, background checks and carrying concealed weapons, among other issues. The nation as a whole received a grade of C+. However, 29 States received grades of D or F. The report reveals the fact that our Nation's gun laws are a patchwork providing uneven and often ineffective protection for our Nation's children. In fact, the death rate of youth in the 7 States that received an F grade was 33 percent higher than the average firearms death rate for the 10 States that received an A or a B. This discrepancy illustrates the need for common sense gun safety laws and is a strong argument for Federal action.

Last year, I cosponsored a bill introduced by Senator DURBIN, the Children's Firearm Prevention Act. Under this bill, adults who fail to lock up a loaded firearm or an unloaded firearm with ammunition would be held liable if the weapon is taken by a child and used to kill or injure themselves or another person. The bill also increases the penalties for selling a gun to a juvenile and creates a gun safety education program that includes parent-teacher organizations, local law enforcement and community organizations. This bill is similar to a bill President Bush signed into law during his tenure as the Governor of Texas. I support this bill and hope the Senate will act on it during this Congress.

#### ENDING THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR IN THE COCOA AND CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY WORLDWIDE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we all know that values matter to Americans. It is also becoming increasingly clear that they matter inside the global marketplace as well as outside. That explains why, according to a recent nationwide poll, 77 percent of Americans said they would likely look for a label when purchasing if there was a label on some products to indicate that they were made without the use of exploitive child labor.

Most Americans also understand that in today's complex, interwoven global economy, some of our cherished values come into conflict with one another in new and different ways and require very difficult trade-offs. For example,

more free trade and free enterprise, as practiced in the real world versus more economic fairness, social justice and environmental sustainability. Recognizing this creative tension, 76 percent of Americans in a recent nationwide poll on globalization said they would pay more and buy a piece of clothing for \$25 that is certified as not made in a sweatshop instead of buying the same article of clothing for \$20 if they were not sure how it was made. Most Americans clearly want to bring our fundamental values—a sense of fair play, universal respect for human rights and worker rights, better stewardship of our shared environment, and more hope and equal opportunity for our children and grandchildren—into the conduct of international business and investment. But so far the global marketplace isn't readily giving American consumers and investors that choice.

Then what were we to do when the Knight-Ridder newspapers in June, 2001 brought us—a nation of chocaholics—face to face with child slavery in the production and harvesting of cocoa beans in the Ivory Coast. This impoverished West African country exports more than 40 percent of the world's supply of this agricultural commodity.

To his credit, Congressman ELLIOTT ENGEL from New York immediately saw the contradiction and reacted with outrage. He took to the House floor last summer and won passage of an amendment to the House version of the fiscal year 2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill on a very lop-sided, bipartisan vote. His amendment would have provided \$250,000 for the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, to come up with a label to attach to all chocolate products for sale and distribution in the U.S. within one year to attest that they were made without any child slave labor. While both the FDA and the chocolate companies quickly protested that such a goal was unrealistic and impossible to attain, I shared Congressman ENGEL's resolve that clear and decisive corrective action had to be taken.

Accordingly, I called representatives of the major chocolate companies to a meeting early last July to underscore the seriousness of the forced child labor problem that had been exposed in their chain of production and to determine what they planned to do about it. I also reminded them at that time that U.S. law currently prohibits the importing of any products made, whole or in part, with forced or indentured child labor. And Senator KOHL, our Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee chairman, and I gave notice of our intent to offer an amendment on the Senate floor, if need be, as early as last September. This set the stage for a series of lengthy, intense negotiations, set in motion by Senator KOHL, between ourselves and representatives of the major chocolate companies and cocoa bean processors.

I insisted from our first meeting that to avoid Senate legislation, the indus-

try would have to meet two requirements:

First, they would have to commit to a set of principles and a time-bound action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including but not limited to forced child labor, throughout their chain of production and as a matter of the utmost urgency.

Second, if and when we might arrive at a mutually-acceptable framework agreement, they—the industry—would have to take that framework agreement to the other, non-industry stakeholders with an interest and expertise in child labor problem-solving and persuade them to participate as full partners in hammering out and fulfilling all of the requirements in this agreement on a mutually-acceptable basis and according to firm, prescribed deadlines.

I am happy to say these fundamental requirements were met when the Harkin-Engel Protocol on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Cocoa and Chocolate Industry was signed and announced publicly last October 1. This unprecedented framework agreement that will result in a credible, public certification system of industry-wide global standards within 4 years to attest that cocoa beans and all of their derivative products have been produced without any of the worst forms of child labor as clearly defined in ILO Convention No. 182.

We knew at the outset that it would not be easy to achieve this breakthrough. While there were strong, initial objections raised about labeling by some industry spokespersons, it also became clear in the course of our negotiations that a reliable labeling system could be developed, given the political will and incentives to do so. Officials of the ILO and some company representatives themselves acknowledged it could be achieved in this far-flung industry in 3-5 years. It was a matter of how quickly industry-wide standards could be defined, implemented, and subjected to effective, independent monitoring, and public reporting by all major stakeholders.

Let me be clear. The Harkin-Engel Protocol on the Worst Forms of Child Labor is a very good agreement, but it is not perfect. It is a breakthrough that sets out a specific, finite timetable during which something will be built incrementally that has never existed before—the capacity to publicly and credibly certify worldwide that cocoa beans and all of the products made from them have been produced and processed free of any of the worst forms of child labor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have copies of this unprecedented agreement and its underlying principles re-printed in their entirety in the RECORD following my remarks. It is to be called the Protocol For The Growing And Processing Of Cocoa Beans In A Manner That Complies With ILO Convention 182 Concerning The Prohibition And Immediate Action