

involvement in the prosecution of bias-motivated crimes; and failed to give law enforcement the tools it needs to ensure that every American can live in an environment free of terror.

And what would Dr. King say of our efforts to make it possible that every American child attend college and receive the benefits that flow from a college education? Four decades after Ole Miss and the University of Alabama admitted their first minority students, some are arguing that universities cannot seek to promote a diverse campus atmosphere by considering race, among many other factors, in assembling its student body. I was disappointed when the President announced to the nation that he would authorize the U.S. Government to oppose the undergraduate and law school admissions policies of the University of Michigan. The administration had an opportunity to send a powerful message to the Nation, namely that, partisan politics aside, the attainment of diverse student bodies at America's universities is in our greatest national interest. I disagree with his decision.

The President's reason for opposing the Michigan admissions system was because it mandated racial quotas. It does not. As the university's president, Mary Sue Coleman, noted in her response to President Bush's misstatement, the university's admissions system "is a complex process that takes many factors into account and considers the entire background of each applicant. . . . We do not have, and never had, quotas or numerical targets in either the undergraduate or Law School admissions programs. Academic qualifications are the overwhelming consideration for admission to both programs."

No, this debate is not about quotas. Rather, it is about educators' judgments about how best to teach and stimulate the curiosity of America's college students. It is about how to nurture critical thinking, how to ignite students' intellectual imagination. I have said it many times before, but now I have the social science data to back it up: the greatest benefactor of a diverse student community is not the individual student who gets some plus-factor on his admissions application; it is the wider college community that gains immensely from learning in an environment with different types of people, with different types of life experiences. And anyone who would suggest that an individual's race does not contribute to one's life experience would be sadly mistaken, because, even in the 21st century, diversity matters.

This debate is about how to make America's promise real for all her children. Tellingly, when asked about the lawsuits against the University of Michigan, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, noted quite poignantly that affirmative action is "an important part toward eliminating discrimination." She is right. To the extent that Whites and minorities sometimes

experience life differently, in other words, to the extent that there are Black-White gaps in poverty rates, in income levels, in access to quality health care, in life expectancy, in rates of imprisonment, in any number of life indicators, those gaps narrow considerably when minorities have increased and equal access to educational opportunities.

Quite frankly, the road that led me from the small town of Scranton, PA, to the hamlet of Claymont, DE, and eventually to the hallowed Halls of the Senate, while rocky and sometimes uncertain, was always paved with possibility. The challenge, my friends, is to make sure every child, no matter their race or ethnicity, no matter their gender, no matter their families' socioeconomic status, has a chance to travel a road, not necessarily free of obstacles, but certainly full of possibility. We must be vigilant in ensuring that the road for all our citizens is paved with possibility.

In 1957, when Dr. King and a group of others formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, they chose as their motto: "To save the soul of America." Our charge today is no less urgent. We have to make America what it ought to be. And to do that, we start where our Founders started, by awakening in our hearts that spirit of revolution, of freedom, of democracy out of which America was born, by remembering that America's promise is only as strong and as real to you as it is to all. Dr. King said it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat everywhere. . . . Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." My friends, "either we go up together or we go down together."

The questions are really quite simple. I stand with Dr. King's vision, which calls on us today to make sure that we do all we can to close the gaps in education and economic prosperity.

When Dr. King died that dark day in 1968, honestly a part of me and a part of every American died, too. Riots erupted in 125 cities around the country, including in my home State of Delaware, where the National Guard occupied Wilmington for 10 months, reportedly the longest occupation in the country. But out of that horror and the anguish that followed, a clarion call was heard. We emerged from the riots a stronger and better nation, and with a stronger faith in what is good and right about America.

To my beloved countrymen, I say that, in this season marking Dr. King's birth, we must remember his legacy. We must continue to raise our voices, continue to speak for the least among us, continue to fight for what is good and right about America.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress

Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 27, 2000 in Normal, IL. Christopher Weninger, an Illinois State University student, was assaulted while walking home from a party. Three men approached Weninger on the street and asked him for a cigarette. As Weninger handed one man a cigarette, another man punched him in the face and called him "queer." The victim suffered a broken nose and eye socket.

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 is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

YOUTH PROGRAM IS BEST REVENGE AGAINST RISING TIDE OF GUN DEATHS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring an inspiring young woman from my home State of Michigan to the attention of my colleagues. Her name is Lakeshia Gallman. Lakeshia graduated from Martin Luther King High School in 2002 and currently attends Wayne State University.

As many of my colleagues know, the Detroit area has been plagued by gun-related deaths of children over the last year. Lakeshia Gallman is no stranger to the terrible effects of this rising tide of gun violence on families and communities. She lost her 17-year-old cousin in a senseless act of gun violence 4 years ago. Since that incident, Lakeshia's commitment to reducing the occurrence of gun violence in Detroit has been exemplary. Lakeshia is active in the Detroit Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiative Project, an organization dedicated to drug prevention and stopping youth violence. She has been a champion of gun safety initiatives in Detroit for over 3½ years. Over the last year, Lakeshia has set up town hall meetings, and met with local and national elected officials, including me. She also helped distribute over 2,000 gun locks and has educated people about the harsh realities of gun violence. Lakeshia recently authored a column on the effects of gun violence in the Detroit Free Press.

Like many Americans, Lakeshia Gallman understands that the black market and gun traffickers are two of the primary ways criminals get their hands on guns. She also knows that easy access to guns in homes are a primary method by which kids injure or kill other kids. We can eliminate easy access to guns by criminals by closing the gun show loophole. And we can prevent kids from gaining access to guns

by enacting safe storage legislation, such as the Children's Firearm Access Prevention Act. These are two commonsense steps we can take to reduce gun violence.

I had the pleasure of meeting Lakeshia Gallman in October and I commended her on her hard work and dedication to preventing gun violence in her community. I am sure that I speak for many of my Senate colleagues in congratulating her on a job well done.

I ask unanimous consent that Lakeshia's Detroit Free Press column be printed in the RECORD.

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

YOUTH PROGRAM IS BEST REVENGE AGAINST
RISING TIDE OF GUN DEATHS
TEEN WHO LOST COUSIN CHANNELS HER ANGER
INTO EDUCATION PLAN
(By Lakeshia Gallman)

Sometimes I sit back and wonder why innocent people have to die. It is a shame that violence has taken over our world.

The shooting death of 16-year-old Detroit high-school student Mario Smith over the weekend has personal meaning for me as someone who graduated from Martin Luther King High School this year. Mario was an honor student at King, an athlete I knew to be a great all-around person.

His senseless death was the latest sad reminder of how gun violence is destroying our communities. But I already knew this—because my 17-year-old cousin was shot to death four years ago.

My cousin and his friends were shot several times with automatic weapons. It was a Sunday afternoon; my aunt told him to take her car and go to the cleaners. Instead, he went to pick up some friends who at the time were selling drugs. They stopped at a stop sign, and two men sprayed the car with their AK47s.

I think my cousin was at the wrong place at the wrong time and hanging out with the wrong crowd. He had a lot of dreams that he wanted to accomplish in life, but that was all taken away from him in couple of seconds.

He always talked about going to the NFL or being a rapper. He was like a brother. I miss his jokes and his smile.

He taught me how to play basketball and said he would come to my first high school game. He was killed a month before my first game.

After my cousin was murdered, I wanted revenge on whoever killed him. Later, I realized that violence was not the way to retaliate. I joined the Detroit Neighborhood Services Organization's Youth Initiatives Project—a youth-driven program that campaigns against drug violence. The program is my revenge.

I get my revenge by educating the community on gun safety and passing out gun locks to help prevent accidents with guns in the home. In this way, I could repay my cousin by saving other lives.

The Youth Initiatives Project has benefited me a lot. The program has made me come out of my shell and talk to other youths about my story.

When I first started the program, I was very shy and quiet. With the help of Frank McGhee, our program director, I learned that if you speak your mind, people will take a minute to listen.

The Youth Initiatives Project has been fighting the fight for a long time. We have

been campaigning and having rallies on this issue for about 3½ years. Gun violence can be stopped. We just have to keep on pushing and educating the public.

Among other achievements, the project distributed 2,000 gun locks to the community over the summer. This proved that the community wanted to practice gun safety—and that made me proud.

The next issue I want to deal with is illegal gun trafficking. I wonder where people are getting these high-powered machine guns. People are selling guns from their houses, trunks of their cars and other places that are illegal. Anyone can buy a gun from these places, even minors.

This illegal gun trafficking is very dangerous because children can get their hands on guns whenever they want.

My message to the community is: If we had done something before these murders, this could have been prevented. We were not concerned until our babies were murdered. There need to be more block clubs, town hall meetings and community activities to keep children out of trouble. This is what I leave with you. Let's start saving our future before it fades away.

To Mario Smith's family, I would like to say that I will keep praying for you and to never give up, because justice will be served.

To my cousin: Rest in peace, Ronald Ellis, I will see you again one day. Just keep on waiting for me, and we will play that one-on-one game I owe you.

My heart goes out to the families and siblings who lost somebody they love. God bless you, and never give up.

TRAVEL TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC FOR THE NATO SUMMIT

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues may be aware, I am a strong advocate of NATO enlargement to include Europe's new democracies. As such, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to join President George W. Bush at the NATO Summit in Prague last November, at which time invitations for NATO membership were extended to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

I remain deeply grateful to the President for inviting me to join him as a member of the Congressional delegation to the NATO Summit, along with my colleague Senator BILL FRIST, and Congressman TOM LANTOS, Congressman ELTON GALLEGLY and Congressman DOUG BEREUTER. I appreciate that the President has recognized my lifelong passion for the inclusion of the former Captive Nations as members of the NATO Alliance, and I was proud to be in the room on November 21, 2002, when NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson officially announced the decision to invite seven countries to become part of the Alliance.

As Lord Robertson articulated on that historic day, the decision to include these new members will serve to strengthen the Alliance as it prepares to confront new challenges to global security. After working with the NATO aspirant countries on comprehensive domestic reforms in preparation for membership in the Alliance, the Secretary General concluded that, "We can therefore say with complete con-

fidence that this round of enlargement will maintain and increase NATO's strength, cohesion and vitality." I share his belief that these countries will make significant contributions to the NATO Alliance. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers have also expressed, these countries will bring niche capabilities, as well as energy, freshness and enthusiasm, to the Alliance.

I sincerely believe that although the newly invited countries still have work to do on their Membership Action Plans, their reforms will be swifter and more complete as they are brought into the Alliance, rather than left out.

Upon our arrival in the Czech Republic, we were informed that we were invited to attend a mock NATO Summit for students, which included young people representing all 19 members of the NATO Alliance, as well as the aspirant countries. The students were scheduled to discuss and debate the same issues that were to be addressed by the Heads of States of the NATO member countries. President Bush was the keynote speaker at their event. I was pleased that Senator FRIST and I had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the various delegations, and I enjoyed the chance to share common experiences with the delegations from Macedonia, Croatia, Italy and Lithuania on an informal basis.

President Bush gave a most inspiring speech to the young people, emphasizing the fact that NATO has become more than simply a military organization, and is in fact an organization composed of people who share common values. With these common ties, he remarked, those countries who have been traditional adversaries will no longer go to war against one another. Instead, as Article V of the NATO Charter clearly states, an attack against one is an attack on all.

Following the President's speech, we proceeded to a reception with Secretary of State Colin Powell. I was delighted to talk with him about NATO's changing role, as well as the many perspectives from which he has viewed the formulation of our foreign policy. On Wednesday evening, November 20, 2002, members of the U.S. delegation attended a dinner with other delegates to the NATO Summit, which was hosted by the Aspen Institute. I was glad to have the opportunity to visit with President Mesić of Croatia, President Trajkovski of Macedonia, Prime Minister Dzurinda of the Slovak Republic, President Kucan of Slovenia, and our host, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic.

Thursday, November 21, 2002 was a thrilling day for me. I have longed to be present when Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were invited into NATO, and I was pleased to be there to see President Havel begin the program and to hear Lord Robertson formally invite