

service to their communities, we must renew the assault weapons ban before it expires on September 13.

But there is much more that we need to do to make communities and cops safer in America. In particular, we must check the rampant gang violence that plagues our city streets and, increasingly, our suburbs and rural communities.

Gang violence used to be a local problem, demanding local solutions. But over the last 12 years, since I have been in the Senate, I have seen this problem spread from isolated neighborhoods to communities across this country.

Gangs have become more sophisticated and more violent criminal enterprises. What were once loosely-organized groups centered around dealing drugs within a particular neighborhood are now complex criminal organizations whose activities include weapons trafficking, gambling, smuggling, robbery, and, of course, homicide.

In 2002, over half of the 1,228 homicides committed in Los Angeles County were gang-related. Similarly, over half of the 499 murders committed in the city of Los Angeles during 2003 were the result of gang violence.

The reach of gangs, however, extends far beyond Southern California.

In fact, Los Angeles serves as a "source city" whose gang members migrate to other communities across the country and set up new criminal entities. One such operation, the L.A.-based 18th Street Gang, is known to have initiated gang activities all over California, in Southwest border and Pacific Northwest states, and in East Coast states including New Jersey and New York.

Today's gangs are more sophisticated, more violent, and more numerous than they were 12 years ago. And that is why we need a strong federal response.

I have introduced legislation with Senator HATCH that will give law enforcement and local communities the tools to deal with gang violence.

Our legislation: Creates new federal crimes to enable prosecutors to target violent gang members; makes changes to current law to allow for effective prosecution for violent street gang crimes; authorizes \$650 million for law enforcement and community groups for suppression, prevention, and intervention programs.

This bill gives us an opportunity to do something about the gang violence that beleaguers our communities and endangers our cops. We owe it to these fine officers who were killed so viciously to do what we can to prevent more violence by gangs.

If we fail to act on both these measures, I am sad to say that I will be back here before long telling the story of some other fine law enforcement officer who is patrolling the streets of one of our communities right now. We must do everything possible to prevent these killings from happening over and over again.

#### MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Sunday, April 25, the March for Women's Lives took place here in Washington. Its organizers estimated that more than a million men, women, and children from more than 57 countries gathered under the banner of reproductive rights, health, and justice for all women. Participants called on Congress and the administration not only to protect the right to choose but also to protect and promote family planning, maternal and child health care, and the empowerment of women in the United States and abroad.

An op-ed by Werner Fornos, president of the Population Institute, appeared that same day in the Chicago Sun-Times. The piece was entitled "March is About More than Abortion," and it explained that the marchers' concerns went beyond the issue of abortion to include concerns about HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, the President's imposition of a global gag rule on family planning providers, and the administration's refusal to release funds to the United Nations Population Fund to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies that can lead to abortion.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Fornos' article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, Apr. 25, 2004]

#### MARCH IS ABOUT MORE THAN ABORTION (By Werner Fornos)

Passing a barbershop window in Juneau, Alaska, the other day, I spotted a placard inviting locals to join a rally in Washington, D.C., today that could have significant implications for the November presidential and congressional elections.

If people from as far away as our country's northwestern-most state converge upon the nation's capital in sufficient numbers—say, a quarter of a million and upwards—it might be time for President Bush and his political guru, Karl Rove, to unbutton their collars and reach for the hyperventilation bags. The performance of the Bush administration on women's rights may be judged more by the turnout for this event than by any poll or survey.

The purpose of the March for Women's Lives is to deliver to our national leaders a strong, unequivocal message of support for reproductive health and rights and justice for all women.

There are concerns well beyond those of hard-core feminists that Bush administration policies are unduly influenced by right-wing religious zealots and the Vatican, who oppose modern contraceptives as well as abortion.

Much of this rising tide of reaction emanates from pro-choice advocates infuriated by the refusal of the White House and a Republican majority in Congress to acknowledge federal law pronouncing abortion as a matter between a woman, her conscience and her physician. But the march is about more than the termination of pregnancies.

For example, a fact sheet about condoms was removed from the National Institutes of Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site and replaced with a document emphasizing condom failure and the effectiveness of abstinence.

No one is suggesting that condom failure should be ignored, or that there is anything wrong with promoting abstinence. The fact remains, however, that the condom, in addition to being a method of preventing unintended pregnancy, is the most effective defense against HIV/AIDS for sexually active individuals.

In a world where 10 more people are infected with HIV every minute, where half of the 40 million people already infected are women, where HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women ages 25 to 34 and the seventh leading cause of death for white American women that age, it is patently inexcusable to omit the condom option from what should be the nation's most trusted source of medical information.

To explain the removal of the condom fact sheet, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy offered the flimsy excuse that the CDC "routinely takes information off its Web site and replaces it with more up-to-date information." Updating the Web site is understandable, expunging the role of the condom in preventing HIV is simply indefensible.

If the Bush administration routinely ignores the reproductive rights and health of women in the United States, it is hardly surprising that respected international family planning nongovernmental organizations give the White House and U.S. congressional leadership low marks on their concern for poor women around the world.

Within an hour or two after taking the oath of office, President Bush signed the global gag rule, a policy to deny U.S. funds to overseas family planning organizations that provide, perform or counsel women on abortion. In the United States, this would be a flagrant violation of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. But the Bush administration, while robustly promoting democratization worldwide, does not hesitate to penalize the world's poorest women by withholding this right from family planning providers overseas.

Then, too, the White House remains adamant in its refusal to release a \$34 million appropriation by Congress to the United Nations Population Fund, the largest multilateral provider of family planning and reproductive health services to women in more than 140 developing countries.

Ironically, the combined impact of the Bush administration's global gag rule and its refusal to release the congressional appropriation for the U.N. agency has led to thousands of abortions resulting from pregnancies to poor women worldwide who have been denied access to family planning information, education and supplies.

There is ample evidence that the availability of condoms and other medically approved family planning methods already has prevented substantially more abortions than the Bush administration's policies have, can, or could. The women who will march in Washington today understand the calculus of reproductive health and family planning denial, even if many of our national leaders do not.

Werner Fornos is president of the Population Institute and the 2003 United Nations Population laureate.

#### HONORING FORMATION OF GLASS CAUCUS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, one of the many strengths of the Senate community is our diverse workforce. It is that diversity that contributes to a more informed and representative government.