

in the United States. The mental, physical and neurobehavioral effects of FASD include deformities in major organs, slow development, learning difficulties, low IQs, and problems with coordination, memory, attention, and judgment.

We can make a difference in the lives of affected families in Illinois and throughout this country. We can prevent fetal alcohol syndrome disorders. Please join me in supporting the Advancing FASD Prevention and Treatment Act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I emphasize today the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On April 29, 2005, a Harvard University student was assaulted by a man in downtown Boston, MA. The apparent motivation for the attack was that the student was openly gay.

I note that yesterday in the House, hate crimes legislation was passed in a bipartisan vote. We must also move similar legislation in the Senate. In the months ahead I look forward to working with Senator KENNEDY as we continue our work in passing a hate crimes bill.●

TRIBUTE TO YAKOV BIRNBAUM

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the contributions of Yakov Birnbaum, an unheralded American freedom fighter, whose work helped free roughly five million Soviet Jews and tens of millions others persecuted for their faith under the former Soviet Union.

In 1964, Birnbaum launched the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry at Columbia University to promote awareness of the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union. His movement ultimately led to the passage of the pivotal Jackson-Vanik Amendment a decade later, which starved the Soviet government of trade benefits in retaliation for its trampling on human rights.

Birnbaum's efforts led to freedom for individuals like Natan Sharansky and the emigration from the Soviet Union of more than 1.5 million Jews since. His work also inspired other individuals, organizations and governments to decry the persecution of people of faith by the Soviet government.

By drawing international attention to repression within the Soviet Union, Birnbaum helped remind us all that the defense of human rights and the free-

dom to worship had to be battleground issues in the Cold War. The final fall of the Soviet system and the flowering of religious freedom that followed were both thanks to the long and tenacious efforts of men and women like Birnbaum.

For all his work in the cause of freedom we recognize him today.●

POLYMER INDUSTRY IN WEST VIRGINIA AND POLYMER APPRECIATION WEEK

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important role the polymer industry plays in my State of West Virginia. As part of Polymer Appreciation Week in the State, Governor Joe Manchin and I have invited a small group of international polymer executives to West Virginia to showcase investment opportunities available to their companies.

West Virginia's polymer industry plays an important and vital role in West Virginia's economy. World renowned companies such as GE Plastics, DuPont, Sunoco, and M&G Polymers have chosen to locate here. West Virginia's excellent infrastructure, broad range of raw materials, highly skilled workforce, and close proximity to 62 percent of the United States industrial market, makes West Virginia a key player in the global market.

The Polymer Alliance Zone of West Virginia—PAZ—is the site of the highest concentration of production of high technology, speciality and engineering polymers in the world. The Mid-Ohio Valley has a long history in the production of industrial chemicals, petrochemicals, and polymers dating back to the 1940s. The region has a proud manufacturing heritage, and today, that expertise and dedication has gained the Polymer Alliance Zone national recognition.

The mission of the Polymer Alliance Zone is to create the most favorable business climate in the world for the plastics industry through a unique partnership among business, education, and government. Since its inception in 1996, the focus of the organization has been the support of both new and existing polymer industries. According to recent calculations by the West Virginia Development office, PAZ has partnered with local, State and private industry to complete 33 projects that have generated more than \$529 million of investments.

The Polymer Alliance Zone offers great opportunities for companies looking to locate in West Virginia. The Mid-Ohio Valley location offers easy access to an increasingly global market, and the State's abundant resources provide companies with affordable, reliable energy. In addition, West Virginia's favorable business climate welcomes and supports polymer companies through a number of valuable assistance programs. More importantly, it is the people of West Virginia who make the Polymer Alliance Zone what

it is—a vibrant economy, a growing community, and an opportunity that national polymer companies should not miss.

Over the last 9 years, the Polymer Alliance Zone has assisted the West Virginia Development Office and our county development authorities in creating and retaining over 1,000 jobs in the region. This is a large achievement, and in return my State recognizes 9 years of service that PAZ has provided to both the polymer industry and to the State of West Virginia by celebrating Polymer Appreciation Week.●

WELLNESS PROGRAM AT BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, every year, the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues, IATF, gives awards to three universities for their programs against underage drinking and over-consumption of alcoholic beverages. Bradley University, which is located in Peoria, IL, is among the three universities being commended and has the honor of being a National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week Winner for 2004-2005.

I applaud the Wellness Program at Bradley University for its commitment to reduce underage drinking. Alcohol misuse on college campuses is not a new problem. It is entrenched in the culture of many institutions of higher learning and in students' social lives. The abuse of alcohol among college students is taking its toll not only on the students who drink alcohol in excess but also their student peers, college administrators, health care personnel who counsel student drinkers, and the community at large.

Help, Encourage, and Teach, HEAT, and Social Norming, SONOR, are two programs that have proven to be effective at Bradley University. HEAT strives to provide students with opportunities to promote positive lifestyle choices, such as peer-led workshops and demonstrations. The SONOR program utilizes creative marketing and advertising strategies to disseminate information about healthy living. These programs are making a difference in the lives of our youth by encouraging college students to make healthy and responsible decisions.

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Galsky, Associate Provost for Student Affairs; Melissa Sage-Bollenbach, the Wellness Program Coordinator at Bradley University; Kelcy Hale, the President of Social Norming; and Chrisandra Ashby, the former president of HEAT for their tireless efforts and outstanding leadership.

Bradley University is to be commended for its innovative and influential alcohol-abuse programs. Representatives of Bradley University recently came to Washington, DC, and visited their Senator's offices to present their alcohol awareness programs. These award recipients also received a plaque and an award check