June 29, 2001

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 6, 1998 in Seattle, Washington. A gay man was severely beaten with rocks and broken bottles in his neighborhood by a gang of youths shouting “faggot.” The victim sustained a broken nose and swollen jaw. When he reported the incident to police two days later, the officer refused to take the report.

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.

CELEBRATION OF CAPE VERDE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to join Cape Verdians in the July 5th celebration of Cape Verde Independence Day.

Every country is rich with its own history and unique story of how it achieved democracy, and Cape Verde is no exception. In 1462, Portuguese settlers arrived at Santiago and founded Ribeira Grande, now Cidade Velha, the first permanent European settlement city in the tropics. After almost three centuries as a colony, in 1951 Portugal changed Cape Verde’s status to an overseas province. Then in December 1974, an agreement was signed which provided for a transitional government composed of Portuguese and Cape Verdians. In 1975, Cape Verdians elected a National Assembly, which received the instruments of independence from Portugal.

For the first fifteen years of independence, Cape Verde was ruled by one party. Then in 1990 opposition groups came together to form the Movement for Democracy. Working together they came together to form the Movement for Democracy, and Cape Verde is achieved democracy, and Cape Verde is no exception. In 1974, an agreement was signed which provided for a transitional government composed of Portuguese and Cape Verdians. In 1975, Cape Verdians elected a National Assembly, which received the instruments of independence from Portugal.

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