

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 120

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need to pass legislation to increase penalties on perpetrators of hate crimes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7 (legislative day, JUNE 6), 2000

Mr. ROBB (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need to pass legislation to increase penalties on perpetrators of hate crimes.

Whereas diversity and tolerance are essential principles of an open and free society;

Whereas all people deserve to be safe within their communities, free to live, work, and worship without fear of violence and bigotry;

Whereas crimes motivated by hatred against persons because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability undermine the fundamental values of our Nation;

Whereas hate crimes tear at the fabric of American society, leave scars on victims and their families, and weaken our sense of community and purpose; and

Whereas individuals who commit crimes based on hate and bigotry must be held responsible for their actions and must be stopped from spreading violence: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that
3 Congress—

4 (1) needs to pass legislation that amends the
5 Federal criminal code to set penalties for persons
6 who commit acts of violence against other persons
7 because of the actual or perceived race, color, reli-
8 gion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or
9 disability of any person;

10 (2) condemns the culture of hate and the hate
11 groups that foster such violent acts;

12 (3) commends the communities throughout our
13 Nation that are united in condemning such acts of
14 hate in their neighborhoods;

15 (4) commends the efforts of Federal, State, and
16 local law enforcement officials; and

17 (5) reaffirms its commitment to a society that
18 fully respects and protects all people, regardless of

- 1 race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual
- 2 orientation, or disability.

