the PATRIOT Act became law. As a result, the American people have no idea how often the FBI is using this controversial power to obtain their sensitive personal records, including library records.

I asked our Nation’s librarians for defending our Constitution and leading the fight to reform the PATRIOT Act. Unfortunately in the past this Justice Department has criticized librarians for exercising their first amendment rights. Now they have gone even further by preventing a librarian from speaking publicly about a legal challenge to the national security letter power.

In our democracy, the government is supposed to be open and accountable to the people and the people have a right to keep their personal lives private. This Justice Department seems to want to reverse this order, keeping their activity secret and prying into the private lives of innocent American citizens.

The President has asked Congress to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act. In order to have a fully informed public debate, the American people should know how often the national security letter authority has been used and they should be able to hear from librarians and others who are concerned about this power.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about 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 June 1, 2004, a man was attacked and stabbed by three men in the downtown area of Seattle, WA. The apparent motivation for the attack was sexual orientation.

I believe that the 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.

U.S. GRAIN STANDARDS ACT

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate passed S.1752, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Grain Standards Act. I understand that the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider this legislation today and look forward to its swift approval, as the act expires September 30, 2005.

This reauthorization bill is identical to the administration’s requested language provided to the committee earlier this year, a simple 10-year extension of current law.

The Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee held a hearing to review the U.S. Grain Standards Act on May 16, 2005, and provided an official copy of the letter we received from the National Grain and Feed Association and the North American Export Grain Association highlighted industry’s desire to be cost-competitive and remain viable for bulk exports of U.S. grains and oilseeds in the future. Specifically, these organizations proposed the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s, USDA, utilization of third-party entities to provide inspection and weighing services at export facilities with 100-percent USDA oversight using USDA-approved standards and procedures. Support for this proposal in the hearing was provided by the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Grain Sorghum Producers, and the American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies.

Testimony presented explained that transitioning the delivery of services through attrition would minimize the impact on Federal employees.

Since the hearing, I have extensively reviewed legislative proposals and discussed competitiveness with various Senators, organizations, and USDA. Chairman BOB GOODLATTE of the House Agriculture Committee and I wrote to USDA to determine if they had existing authority to use private entities at export port locations for grain inspection and weighing services, and if they did, how they would implement this authority.

Accompanying this statement is a copy of the letter we received from USDA responding to our questions. The letter clearly states that the U.S. Grain Standards Act currently authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to contract with private persons or entities for the performance of inspection and weighing services at export port locations for grain inspection and weighing services, and if they did, how they would implement this authority.

Contract terms would require reimbursement to GIPSA for the cost of supervising the contractor’s delivery of official inspection and weighing services.

GIPSA would comply with OMB Circular No. A-76 for any contracting activity that may replace or displace federal employees. The Circular would not apply if the contract for outsourcing services intends to fill workforce gaps, not affect Federal employees, or supplement rather than replace the federal workforce. The A-76 process typically takes two years and involves an initial cost-benefit analysis, an open competitive process, and an implementation phase.

I hope that the explanations provided above are fully responsive to the questions