

I believe the Senate must send a message of hope and a message of action. We have friends outside the Jewish community who are standing with us. We ought to thank them and embrace them. Just as we had friends during the Holocaust, we must always embrace them. We must always form those coalitions. I believe that Americans of all faiths and people of all faiths across this world understand what is at stake here. Because it really is about humanity. Israel will come out of this strong, and remain a beacon of hope in the Middle East with the United States standing by as one of its greatest allies.

I agree with Prime Minister Sharon that the peace table must be rebuilt and there must once again be a process in place to resolve at long last the difficult challenges of the Middle East.●

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 1, 1992, in Miami Beach, FL. A 45-year-old Miami Beach man was beaten outside a gay nightclub. The assailants, two teenagers, were heard to make anti-gay threats toward the victim.

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 and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

#### CHILD CARE

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues a letter sent by almost 300 State legislators—Republican and Democrat alike from 40 States—calling on Congress to add substantial new funding for child care.

Just as parents have provided moving testimony to Congress about their struggles to find and afford child care, these state legislators join them in urging us to better fund child care to help families work and children succeed in school. Unfortunately, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), is currently serving only one out of every seven eligible children. And any progress that States have made in recent years is now being threatened by the challenging economic situations that the States are confronting. I, along with Senators KERRY and TORRICELLI, introduced the Children First Act of 2002, S. 2070, to

help children, families and the states meet their child care needs.

People in New Mexico recognize that accessible, quality child care is a vital support for working families. Increased availability of child care will help to ensure the success of welfare reform, while also providing a critical support for parents earning low-incomes who are struggling to support their families and stay off the welfare rolls. State legislators see firsthand the integral role of child care in helping families to work.

Quality child care also provides children with the early learning experience they need to achieve in school. States have been strong partners in the effort to improve public education across the nation. We must help them to provide children with the experiences they need to be ready to learn.

These State legislators, including 14 legislators from New Mexico, today join the growing chorus of voices that we have heard from in support of increased child care funding. I ask unanimous consent that the text of their letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows.

APRIL 24, 2002

Re: Child Care  
Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,  
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BINGAMAN: Quality child care is one of the most important investments we can make to help families to work and children to enter school ready to learn. The undersigned state legislators believe that substantial new investments for child care must be a top federal priority.

Congress has a unique opportunity to address child care this year. As you undertake the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), we urge you to make sufficient new investments to ensure that 2 million more eligible children can receive assistance and that quality improvements can be made. This additional funding would approximately double the number of children currently getting assistance while improving the quality of care. Now, just 1 in 7 eligible children are receiving this important assistance.

This additional investment serves two critical purposes. First, child care is an essential work support that will help ensure the success of welfare reform. Working parents need stable, affordable, and safe child care for their children in order to get a job and stay employed. Parents who work in low wage jobs struggle to find quality child care that they can afford. State legislators see firsthand the critical value of child care and its integral role in helping families to work.

Second, quality care provides children with the early education experience they need to be ready for school and success in later life. States have been strong partners in the effort to improve the education of our children; we must to provide them with the strongest foundation possible to prepare them to be ready to learn and to succeed in school.

Substantial new funding for the CCDBG would help states ensure that parents can work and children can have the quality early learning experiences that help prepare them to achieve in school. Now, as states struggle to overcome difficult economic challenges, we hope that we can count on your leadership in making additional investments in the

CCDBG. This investment is one we cannot afford NOT to make.

Sincerely,

Rep. Steven C. Adams (VT), Sen. Richard Alarcón (CA), Rep. Elaine R. Alfano (VT), Rep. David Allaire (VT), Sen. Dede Alpert (CA), Assm. Elaine Alquist (CA), Sen. Ellen Anderson (MN), Sen. Jean Ankeney (VT), Assm. Dion Aroner (CA), Rep. Kathy B. Ashe (GA), Rep. Lorraine Ausley (FL), Rep. Catherine Barrett (OH), Sen. Susan Bartlett (VT), Del. Viola O. Baskerville (VA), Rep. Gail C. Beam (NM), Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague (GA), Sen. Mike Beebe (AR), Rep. Bernie Benn (NH), Del. Joanne C. Benson (MD), Sen. Roseann Bentley (MO), Rep. Connie Bernardy (MN), Rep. Cindy Beshear (UT), Rep. Anne Betancourt (FL), Rep. Gary Biggs (AR), Sen. Mark Blade (IN), Sen. Patricia Blevins (DE), Rep. Lynn Bohi (VT), Rep. David Bolduc (VT), Rep. Johnnie Bolin (AR), Rep. John L. Bowman (MO), Rep. Betty Boyd (CO), Assm. James F. Brennan (NY), Del. Robert Brink (VA), Rep. Shane Broadway (AR), Rep. Tyrone Brooks (GA), Sen. Lisa Brown (WA), Sen. Robert Brown (GA), Sen. Brian Burke (WI), Del. Emmett C. Burns (MD), Rep. James Busby (AL), Sen. Gloria Butler (GA), Rep. Kenneth A. Carano (OH), Rep. Karen R. Carter (LA), Assm. Gil Cedillo (CA).

Rep. Joseph Cervantes (NM), Rep. Duane Cheney (IN), Rep. Marvin Childers (AR), Assm. Joan K. Christensen (NY), Assm. Judy Chu (CA), Sen. J. Clement Cicilline (RI), Rep. Mary Cirelli (OH), Rep. Irma Clark (MI), Rep. Carol C. Clevon (MA), Sen. Eric Coleman (CT), Assm. Herb Conaway (NJ), Assm. Jack Connors (NJ), Rep. Edward G. Connolly (MA), Rep. Olin Cook (AR), Rep. Ken Cowling (AR), Rep. William Crawford (IN), Del. Flora D. Crittenden (VA), Rep. George C. Cross (VT), Rep. Judy B. Crowley (VT), Rep. LeRoy Dangeau (AR), Del. L. Karen Darner (VA), Rep. Dan K. Darrow (VT), Rep. Don P. Davis (VT), Rep. Lois DeBerry (TN), Rep. Michael DeBose (OH), Rep. David L. Deen (VT), Rep. Johannah L. Donovan (VT), Rep. Robert Dostis (VT), Rep. Patricia R. Doyle (VT), Rep. Carina Driscoll (VT), Rep. Dawnna Dukes (TX), Assm. John Dutra (CA), Rep. Dean Elliott (AR), Rep. Susan Emerson (NH), Rep. Alice Emmons (VT), Sen. Martha Escutia (CA), Assm. Arthur O. Eve (NY), Sen. Dede Feldman (NM), Sen. Joseph A. Fidel (NM), Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (AL), Sen. Eric D. Fingerhut (OH), Rep. Michael Fisher (VT), Rep. Mary E. Flowers (IL), Rep. John E. Follett (VT).

Rep. Betty Folliard (MN), Rep. Johnny Ford (AR), Sen. Vincent D. Fort (GA), Rep. Lois Frankel (FL), Sen. Rosa Franklin (WA), Rep. George French (AR), Rep. John Fritchey (IL), Rep. Anne Gannon (FL), Sen. Mary Jane Garcia (NM), Rep. Dean George (VT), Rep. Avis L. Gervias (VT), Rep. Stanley J. Gerzofsky (ME), Assm. Deborah J. Glick (NY), Rep. Cedric Bradford Glover (LA), Rep. Pat Godchaux (MI), Assm. Jackie Goldberg (CA), Sen. Avel Louise Gordly (OR), Rep. Maxine Grad (VT), Assm. Aurelia Greene (NY), Rep. Jane Greimann (IA), Rep. Peter Groff (CO), Sen. Mary Ann Handley (CT), Sen. Alice V. Harden (MS), Sen. Toni Nathaniel Harp (CT), Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson (NY), Rep. David Charles Hausam (AR), Assm. Sally Havice (CA), Rep. Joe Hayes (AK), Sen. Robert L. Hedlund (MA), Sen. Robert Hernandez (CO), Rep. Steve Hingtgen (VT), Sen. Melvin "Kip" Holden (LA), Sen. Maxine Horner (OK), Rep. Don House (AR), Del. James W. Hubbard (MD), Del. Susan Hubbard (WV), Rep. Cola H. Hudson (VT), Sen. Vincent Hughes (PA), Rep. Margaret Hummel (VT), Rep. Kay Iles (LA), Sen. Paulette Irons (LA), Rep. Lei Ahu Isa (HI), Rep. Lydia P. Jackson (LA), Rep. Gilda Jacobs (MI), Assm. Rhoda Jacobs (NY), Rep. Pam Jochum (IA).