Both amendments call for the President to submit a quarterly report on our progress in Iraq. While Congress already receives a number of reports and Members and committees in both bodies receive briefings from civilian and military leaders, this report from the President would become the most comprehensive report on the situation in Iraq.

These are the three important differences between the two amendments.

No. 1 the reporting timeline—section c. The Warner-Frist amendment calls for the first report 90 days after the enactment of the Act. Ninety days allows the President sufficient time to assemble this very wide-ranging report. A report of this scope will require close consultation with all departments and agencies of the Federal Government; American diplomats in Iraq and in the region; United States allied and partnered nations; and our military leaders here and in the theater of operations.

The Levin amendment would allow for just 30 days of coordination and consultation before submitting the initial report. I believe that is insufficient time to produce a report as comprehensive as this.

No. 2 is section c. The Levin-Reid amendment calls for a completely unclassified report. The Warner-Frist amendment directs that the report be unclassified to the extent possible. This is an important distinction. Some information on international negotiations and agreements, and plans for Iraq's domestic security will be an integral part of the development of Iraqi security forces, this may be too sensitive to be presented in an unclassified forum. The Warner-Frist amendment allows the President to produce a classified annex if the President and his advisors believe it is necessary.

No. 3 is a campaign plan with estimated dates for phased withdrawal—section c(7). The Levin-Reid amendment asks for a campaign plan with estimated dates for the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces to be published in the unclassified report. I believe that any program for the withdrawal of American combat forces must be conditions-based, and linked to specific, responsible benchmarks not just dates on a calendar, per se. While I agree that we must continue to make it clear to the Iraqis that a program for withdrawal is a common goal, any announcement of immediate withdrawal or even speculation of withdrawal before a secure and democratic Iraq is in place is simply not prudent.

I am concerned that the release of a timeline such as that in the last paragraph of the Levin-Reid amendment now that announces our withdrawal plans, even with estimated dates, could promote speculation and send an erroneous message to our troops, the Iraqi people, our coalition partners, and the terrorists.

I urge you to vote for Warner-Frist amendment and that we follow Levin and Reid, rather than an entire new amendment to show how much we do agree on and that this is an effort to seek partisanship.

We are down to two differences: the word ''indefinite,'' which to me precludes the chance—could be construed as we would not leave a very small unit there to facilitate the logistic transfer, the need to bring up to a level of acceptability the armaments the Iraqis have; and the continuation of some security work as well as training. But I will not belabor the point. I was very specific in the careful choice of words substituted for ''indefinite.''

The last paragraph—every Senator has to decide for himself or herself the clear meaning of the English language and whether that cannot be construed by many to invoke the thought of a timetable.

I say to my good friend, we have had a very good debate tonight. How fortunate we are that our distinguished colleague, a long-time member of the committee, the Senator from Connecticut, joined us.

I think we have done a good service to our colleagues who, in a very brief period tomorrow, will be required to focus on this and cast their votes accordingly.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I hope we have performed that service. I know we all tried in good faith to do it. I am perfectly content, as the Senator from Virginia is, that our colleagues read that last paragraph, read the paragraph before that making reference three times to schedules, read the entire resolution we have written, and then determine as to which is the better message to send to the Iraqis.

I am perfectly content to leave it rest there.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I think the matter now is that the Senate should go off the bill and I will proceed to do morning business.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank Chairman WARNER and ranking Member LEVIN for their leadership in bringing the fiscal year 2006 Defense authorization bill, S. 1042, to the floor and shepherding it through to final passage after months of unfortunate delays.

Due to procedural limitations associated with the managers' amendment which included my amendments, it was impossible to have original cosponsors added. The following Senators are cosponsoring certain of my amendments:

Senators CHAFEE and DEWINE would like to cosponsor my amendment to provide for mental health counselors under TRICARE, S.A. 2456; Senators NELSON of Florida, TALENT, ROBERTS and HARKIN would like to cosponsor my amendment to require a report on predatory lending directed at members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, S.A. 2468.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. I ask unanimous consent there be a period for morning business with Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 November, 7, 2005, in New York City, NY, Kyle Spidle was attacked near the Monster Bar where he worked. The attack began when two men began yelling from a vehicle at Mr. Spidle about the way he was walking down the street. When Mr. Spidle yelled back the pair of men got out of the car and begin to beat him. According to police, the pair hurled homophobic epithets at Mr. Spidle as they beat him

I believe that our Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MONTANA'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Bryant Elementary School, Chief Joseph Elementary School, and Huntley Project Elementary School. Montana is proud and I am honored to recognize these three schools identified as blue ribbon schools under No Child Left Behind.

As the spouse of a schoolteacher, I understand the many difficulties our schools face. Each and every day, parents send their children off to school to be educated, cared for, and disciplined. These three Montana schools have received this important award, and were honored last week at the Department of Education. I thank the staff, teachers, and parents for their hard work to make such success possible. The Blue Ribbon Award is no small achievement—students from these schools are in the top 10 percent of students across the State. I am honored to acknowledge them for their work.

Principals Howard Corey, Rick Knisely, and Russell Van Hook all understand the importance an education can have on the life of a child, as well as the significant role parents and the community play in the development of these future leaders. They should be