

with regard to hate crimes. What speaks volumes to me about the importance of this legislation—and the reason the Senate's inaction is so disappointing—are the stories. The people behind the numbers. The victims and the survivors.

In the strong hope that we will revisit this matter in the near future, let me share some of these stories—some of the awful realities of the crimes we are talking about. The most recent happened just last week in Riverside, CA.

Last Thursday, two gay men were stabbed repeatedly in the back outside a popular gay bar. One of these men, 40-year-old Jeffrey Owens, died hours later. Michael Bussee, 48-years-old, managed to survive.

According to the media reports, both men had come to the bar to celebrate a friend's birthday. After leaving the bar with their partners, Jeffrey Owens wanted to show everyone the pictures he had taken on a recent trip to Joshua Tree National Park. When he went to retrieve the pictures in his car, a man approached Michael Bussee, punched him, and then stabbed him in the back. Noting the commotion, Jeffrey Owens approached the perpetrator, and was stabbed four times in the back. Before stabbing Jeffrey, the attacker screamed a homophobic slur.

Apparently, neither man knew how badly he had been hurt. Jeffrey Owens didn't even realize he had been stabbed until he stepped out of the car at the county hospital in Moreno Valley, when his friends saw his blood-soaked seat.

Jeffrey Owens died hours later, after two operations. Michael Bussee was treated and released.

There are countless other stories I could share with you, but I will only touch on a few of them here today.

On September 7, 2000, a Los Angeles resident was charged with murder and hate crimes for allegedly killing a 65-year-old Hispanic man, Jesus Plascencia, by running him over at least twice in a parking lot. Authorities say she made comments about her hatred of Hispanics after she murdered him and referred to him as "dead road kill."

On September 18, 2001, someone threw a Molotov cocktail through the window of a Sikh family's home in San Mateo, CA. The fuse was lit but, due to some miracle, the firebomb did not explode as it hit the head of a 3-year-old child in the house.

In Santa Barbara, CA, a 37-year-old gay man named Clint Scott Risetter was killed after an alleged arsonist poured gasoline over him while he slept and set him on fire. The perpetrator says he killed Risetter "because he was gay," and because he had "a lot of hatred toward gay people."

And the list goes on and on. These stories are what make this bill so vitally important.

This bill would extend current Federal hate crime protection—which cov-

ers race, religion, color and national origin—to gender, sexual orientation and disability. It would also make it easier to prosecute hate crimes at the Federal level.

It is an extremely important tool to help our already overtaxed State and local law enforcement by allowing Federal assistance, when necessary, in the investigation and prosecutions of hate crimes.

It would provide Federal assistance to State, local and Indian law enforcement officials who have run up extraordinary expenses in connection with their investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. It would also provide training grants to help local law enforcement officers identify, investigate, prosecute, and prevent hate crimes. Finally, it would allow the Justice Department to back up local law enforcement by removing arcane obstacles that prevent effective prosecution of hate crimes motivated by race, color, religion, or ethnicity.

This bill has broad support from notable law enforcement agencies and state and local leaders, including 22 state Attorneys General, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and others. With this broad-based support, and with the need so clearly urgent, this bill should be immediately passed.

Two years ago we stressed the importance of passing hate crimes legislation. We cited the examples of James Byrd, Jr., of Matthew Shepard, and others. And we passed it.

Here we are, two years later, making the same arguments and conducting the same debates. This time, the victims have new names: most recently, in my State of California, names such as Jeffrey Owens, Michael Bussee, Jesus Plascencia, and Clint Scott Risetter.

The time to act is now. It is my hope that we will pass this vital legislation by the end of this year.

#### 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 June 1, 2001 in Modesto, CA. The home of an inter-racial couple and the couple's two children were threatened when someone threw a Molotov cocktail at the couple's home. Police believe it was a hate crime, citing other evidence such as a watermelon thrown on the driveway, a box of grits, a frozen bag of black-eyed peas, and a 40-oz. King Cobra beer.

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.

#### LEGISLATION TO DENY U.S. TAX-PAYER MONEY TO ARAFAT AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today in support of my legislation to prohibit any U.S. taxpayer money from ending up in the hands of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian authority.

Unfortunately, Yasser Arafat is not a partner in the peace process.

As long as the United States continues to provide money to the Palestinian authority through grants to non-governmental organizations, some of that money will end up in the hands of those who wish to do harm to Israel.

We must stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel in the war against terrorism.

We must also send a clear message to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership that the United States will not tolerate terrorism against Israel.

Israel is a true friend and ally.

And, as a Nation, we share many of the same values—democracy, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, a strong desire for peace and prosperity, to name but a few.

During the Camp David summit in July of 2000, it was Israel that was prepared to make tremendous concessions to ensure peace in the Region.

As we all know today, Arafat refused to reach a peace agreement, and walked away from the negotiating table.

Yasser Arafat did not want peace because he needs the conflict for them to stay in power.

Instead of peace, they chose terror.

My staff has compiled a list of terrorist attacks on Israel last year. In 2001, 79 attacks cost 160 innocent Israelis their lives, and wounded another 1,200. Since then, of course, we have all seen the tremendous cost in human lives and misery from many more terrorist attacks on innocent civilians, and the resulting isolation of Yasser Arafat and the civilized world's condemnation of the Palestinian authority.

We dare not forget the level of terror visited upon Israel by Palestinian terrorists.

Arafat is using his own personal forces to attack Israel through suicide attacks.

Furthermore, he is allowing Hamas and Islamic Jihad safe harbor in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad are two of the most heinous terrorist organizations in the world, responsible for the deaths of numerous innocent people.

Keep in mind, at one time, Arafat promised to get rid of these organizations.