

the New York Times, writes that “the concentration of power—political, corporate, media, cultural—should be anathema to conservatives.” John Roberts in the Chicago Tribune deplores the “blatantly disingenuous, if not dishonest, explanations being given by FCC Chairman Michael Powell and his supporters for their actions.”

No prizes for guessing who supports the commission: the major media conglomerates who have coincidentally spent more than \$80 million on lobbying, plus over \$25 million in political contributions, in the past three years and stand to gain enormously from this.

Regardless of their political ideology, we cannot risk nonelected media bosses having inappropriate local, regional, or national power. The FCC was created to ensure that the public interest is served by the media companies that use our airwaves. Everyone is entitled to a mistake sometime, but the FCC is abusing the privilege. Congress must act now and reverse the FCC’s irresponsible new rules.

#### CHANGES TO H. CON. RES. 95 PURSUANT TO SECTION 401 MEDICARE RESERVE FUND ADJUSTMENT

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, section 401 of H. Con. Res. 95, the FY 2004 Budget Resolution, permits the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to make adjustments to the allocation of budget authority and outlays to the Senate Committee on Finance, provided certain conditions are met.

Pursuant to section 401, I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to H. Con. Res. 95 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the following material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

	Dollars in millions
<b>Current Allocation to Senate Finance Committee</b>	
FY 2004 Budget Authority .....	769,846
FY 2004 Outlays .....	773,735
FY 2004–2008 Budget Authority .....	4,504,397
FY 2004–2008 Outlays .....	4,513,658
FY 2004–2013 Budget Authority .....	10,591,162
FY 2004–2013 Outlays .....	10,606,226
<b>Adjustments</b>	
FY 2004 Budget Authority .....	
FY 2004 Outlays .....	
FY 2004–2008 Budget Authority .....	113,540
FY 2004–2008 Outlays .....	113,570
FY 2004–2013 Budget Authority .....	400,000
FY 2004–2013 Outlays .....	400,000
<b>Revised Allocation to Senate Finance Committee</b>	
FY 2004 Budget Authority .....	769,846
FY 2004 Outlays .....	773,735
FY 2004–2008 Budget Authority .....	4,617,937
FY 2004–2008 Outlays .....	4,627,228
FY 2004–2013 Budget Authority .....	10,991,162
FY 2004–2013 Outlays .....	11,006,226

#### PROTECT ACT OF 2003 TECHNICAL AMENDMENT

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to speak to an issue that we need to promptly address. As part of the Protect Act of 2003, we authorized a pilot program to study the feasibility of instituting a national background check for those who volunteer in children’s activities. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will provide its expertise to assist volunteer organizations in evaluating the criminal records of volunteers to determine if the volunteers are fit to interact and provide care for children.

Currently, the Protect Act tasks the National Center with operating the cyber tip line in addition to its participation in the pilot program. The Protect Act presently immunizes the National Center for operating the cyber tip line as long as it does so consistent with the purpose of the tip line. However, no similar protection was provided with respect to the National Center’s activities related to the pilot program. The bill I have offered will extend the immunity to the National Center for its participation in the pilot program.

I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this technical fix so that the worthy goals of the pilot program can commence.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in San Jose, CA. On October 12, 2001, a pregnant Yemini woman wearing a hijab and a long dress was beaten by a group of angry teenagers. After the attack, the woman needed to be hospitalized and remained in guarded condition until she delivered her baby.

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 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.

#### WRITING CONTEST ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, each year fifth graders across the United States compete in a writing contest on immigration sponsored by the American Immigrant Law Foundation and the American Immigration Layers Association. Thousands of students participated in this year’s competition, responding to the question, “Why I’m Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants.”

In 1958, President Kennedy, who was then completing his first term as a Senator, published a book with the title, “A Nation of Immigrants,” and I had the privilege of serving as one of the judges for this year’s contest. It was impressive to see how the students responded. Their essays illustrate the wealth of diverse cultures that immigrants share with our Nation. The students’ writings radiate with pride for our diversity and our immigrant heritage. Many students told personal sto-

ries of their families and friends and their immigration to the United States.

The winner of this year’s contest is Miranda Santucci of Pittsburgh. In her essay, “An American Patchwork Quilt,” Miranda explores the value of her friends’ cultures and how their diversity has enhanced her life. She compares the United States to a colorful patchwork quilt where “every fabric piece tells an immigrant’s story about overcoming hardship, seeking opportunities, and reaching for dreams,” and where “threads of different languages, customs, foods, cultures, religions and skills hold these pieces together.” Miranda’s eloquent essay reaches to the heart of what makes us all uniquely American.

Other students honored for their exceptional writing were Rachel Adams of Houston, Melissa Cheng of Atlanta, Jessica Du of Alameda, and Elias Reisman of Indianapolis. I congratulate these students on their outstanding achievement, and I know my brother would be proud of them too.

These award-winning essays will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

There being no objection, the essays were printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Winchester Thurston School,  
Pittsburgh, PA]

#### AN AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUILT

(By Miranda Santucci)

America reminds me of a beautiful patchwork quilt that covers our nation with a diversity of immigrants. Each quilt square is made up of different colors and textures with a unique design and pattern. Every fabric piece tells an immigrant’s story about overcoming hardships, seeking opportunities, and reaching for dreams. Threads of different languages, customs, foods, cultures, religions, and skills hold all these pieces together. I’m glad America is a nation of immigrants because these individual patchwork pieces make the whole American quilt more beautiful.

The quilt covers my home, school, neighborhood, and city. It warms me when I celebrate the feast of fishes on Christmas Eve like my father’s Italian ancestors did, when I play with my Greek friend Katarina Konstantinos after school, or when I share the basket blessing tradition at Easter with my neighbor, Peter Muszalski, in his church on Polish Hill. I see many colors in the fabric at my school when I look around at all the different skin tones. I feel how enormous the quilt is when I go through the Strip District and read the storefront signs like Sambok, Stamboolis, Benkovitz, and Sunseri.

I cherish each piece of our country’s quilt. All the immigrant patches are still unique, even though they are sewn together as one. They make our country rich, full and strong. America’s patchwork quilt is a precious heirloom that should be handled with pride, and handed down through the generations of American history.

[From the Mayde Creek Elementary,  
Houston, TX]

#### AMERICA—MY NEW HOME

(By Rachel Adams)

America, America