

which would put private insurance options out of business and force, as I said before, many small businesses offering coverage to push those employees into the government-run program.

So, Mr. President, these are both, just as I said before, in terms of size, scope, scale, and magnitude, enormous issues in terms of our domestic economy, and we shouldn't be hurrying these issues through. There is some suggestion that the health care bill, as it comes over from the House, might be returned to the floor of the Senate, put on the floor under rule XIV, and an attempt made to get it passed before the August recess. That is not the way to conduct the business of the Senate. That is not the way to deal with one-sixth of the American economy. It is not the way, certainly, to deal with something as complex as the American health care system.

To allow the government takeover of that system, it seems to me, is something most Americans, if they were aware was happening, would not be for. I think the survey numbers bear that out. I think, as is true with cap and trade, the more the American people are engaged in this debate, the more they hear about it, the more objections they are going to have to the government takeover of health care in this country.

So these are both issues which need to be done thoughtfully and carefully and, frankly, they shouldn't be rushed out of here. We shouldn't be trying to pass health care out of the Senate before the August break. We shouldn't be talking about doing cap and trade—although I think that is now being pushed back into the fall.

These both have huge impacts on America's economy and get at the heart of the issue of how we are going to retain and create new jobs and expand our economy. These are very consequential issues and shouldn't be rushed. So I hope the Senate will take its time. I hope it will allow for full debate and that we will have an opportunity to put some of our ideas out there, some of the alternatives we think, in fact, would improve health care in this country and make it more affordable for more Americans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

GROWTH ACT OF 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to urge my colleagues to join me in addressing challenges facing women in the developing world. Senator HUTCHISON and I introduced the GROWTH Act to focus U.S. developmental assistance and strengthen the role of women in developing countries.

Families, particularly in the developing world, would not survive were it not for the critical contributions of women. Rural women produce 50 percent of the world's total food, 60–80 percent of the food in the developing world, and most of the staples, such as

rice, wheat, and maize, that provide up to 90 percent of the rural poor's food intake.

Yet these women often bear the brunt of economic, legal, and social inequality.

For example, because of the inequality in inheritance laws or the lack of enforcement of such laws, women are often dispossessed of their property when their husbands die. In fact, even though they overwhelmingly tend the fields and produce the food that keep their families alive, women in the developing world own less than 15 percent of land and in many African countries less than 1 percent.

Economic, legal, and social inequalities have had a measureable impact on the ability of women in the developing world to earn an adequate living and support their families. The statistics are sobering—women make up 60 percent of the world's working poor, 70 percent of the hungry, and 67 percent of the illiterate.

Thus, improving the economic conditions of women is key to improving economic conditions in the developing world. Even more importantly, improving the economic conditions of women is key to the future of the children in these countries.

Study after study shows that women in developing countries are more likely to use their income for food, health care and education for their children. As a result, greater economic opportunities for women means that their babies are more likely to survive infancy, their children, especially their daughters, are more likely to attend school, and their families are more likely to eat nutritious meals.

One way to improve economic opportunity is to expand women's access to microcredit programs. Microcredit is an economically viable model of extending very small loans, at competitive interest rates, to the very poor. These loans allow the recipients, who are overwhelmingly women, to open or expand businesses and often allow them to lift their family out of poverty.

When you talk about microcredit, you must talk about Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Dr. Yunus is the recognized developer of the microcredit model. In 1976, he launched what has become a global movement to create economic and social development from below with a loan of just \$27 from his own pockets to 42 crafts persons in a small village in Bangladesh. Today, the Grameen Bank, which he founded to carry out his work, operates in more than 84,000 villages and has provided more than \$8 billion in low-interest loans to nearly 8 million people.

Over the past 30 years, his microcredit model has changed millions of lives, directly and indirectly positively affecting the lives of as many as 155 million people.

In 2006, Dr. Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for developing this microcredit model.

The award of the Noble Peace Prize to Dr. Yunus recognized that lasting peace and prosperity cannot be achieved unless large numbers of the world's poor have the means to break out of poverty.

Earlier this year, Senator BENNETT and I offered the Dr. Muhammad Yunus Gold Medal Act, S. 864, to honor Dr. Yunus's efforts. I thank my 59 colleagues who have already agreed to cosponsor S. 864 and urge the rest of my colleagues to do the same.

Today I also urge my colleagues to support S. 1425, the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive, or GROWTH, Act of 2009. Senator HUTCHISON and I offered the GROWTH Act on July 9 to expand on Dr. Yunus's microcredit model and focus U.S. developmental assistance on tackling many of the obstacles to economic empowerment of women in the developing world.

The GROWTH Act would not only empower women by giving them the financial tools to start and grow their own businesses, it would create broader opportunities through educational, legal, and community building programs.

The GROWTH Act is comprehensive legislation that, among other efforts, increases women's ability to start and develop businesses through enhanced microfinance, microenterprise loans, and related financial tools. It also supports various efforts to enhance women's land and property rights, and increases women's employment opportunities and improves working conditions for women through education, skills training, and advocacy programs.

The GROWTH Act is an important step forward in attacking the underlying economic inequalities in the developing world that hold women back from their full potential.

I thank Senator HUTCHISON for again joining me in offering the GROWTH Act, as well as Senators COLLINS, LANDRIEU, SHAHEEN, GILLIBRAND, SANDERS, CASEY, WHITEHOUSE, and JOHNSON for joining the effort as cosponsors. I urge the rest of my colleagues to empower women in the developing world by supporting S. 1425.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

MATTHEW SHEPARD HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

We need to pass this bill without further delay. The House passed a hate crimes bill with a vote of 249 to 175 in April. President Obama has repeatedly stated that he supports swift enactment of hate crimes legislation. The Department of Justice has expressed a need to strengthen our Federal hate crimes law. And, over 300 law enforcement, religious, civil rights, and community organizations have stated their

support for this act. We need to make certain that every American is protected from hate crimes. No one should be a victim of violence because of who they are.

In fact, hate crimes are domestic terrorism. Like all terrorist acts, they seek to bring fear to whole communities through violence on a few. We have committed ourselves to protecting our country from terrorists that strike from abroad, so we must make the same commitment to protecting Americans from homegrown terrorism.

Only weeks ago, a small distance from this Capitol, James von Brunn, a formerly convicted criminal and a known anti-Semite, entered the DC Holocaust Memorial Museum and began firing a rifle. During the attack, von Brunn shot and killed security guard Stephen Johns. As tragic as this incident was, the heroism of Stephen Johns, and the heroism of other members of the museum's security team, prevented von Brunn from conducting a violent massacre of innocent men, women, and children. Von Brunn planned a hate crime, an act of domestic terrorism. Our society recognizes that such a crime cannot be tolerated. Attacks like these send shockwaves through American communities and must be prosecuted as terrorizing crimes.

The original hate crime statute, enacted in 1968, criminalized violent acts based on a victim's race, color, religion, or national origin. Over the past 40 years, we have learned from experience that hate crime perpetrators often target communities unprotected by the original statute. This amendment strengthens that statute to protect victims targeted with violence because of their gender, their sexual orientation, their gender identity, or their disability.

In Boston on August 24, 2008, Jonathan Howard and three friends were viciously attacked by four men while walking home from a Boston nightclub. The assault began when a Honda pulled up beside the victims. The four men in the vehicle began yelling obscenities and homophobic slurs at the group. The perpetrators told Howard to die and repeatedly kicked his head into the pavement. After the event, Howard stated that "the type of assault that we encountered was completely random, unprovoked, and unforgivable." This type of attack was just as much a hate crime as the attack by James von Brunn, and it needs to be recognized as a Federal hate crime.

The victims did nothing to provoke their attack. They did not deserve to be the subjects of violence. No member of the LGBT community should be terrified to walk down the street for fear of hateful violence. Hate crimes perpetrators must not be allowed to place our communities in fear.

On May 11, the Boston Globe reported that the historic election of President Barack Obama spurred a wave of hate

crime violence. The article cites a study by the Southern Poverty Law Center that shows the number of White extremist groups in the United States has increased by nearly 50 percent since 2000, and that White extremist activity has sharply increased over the past several months.

Last November 5, following the election of President Barack Obama, four men rampaged across Staten Island, assaulting African Americans in response to President Obama's victory. The attackers beat a 17-year-old boy with a pipe. They physically assaulted another man to the ground, verbally harassed individuals suspected of voting for President Obama, and slammed into a man with a car because they mistakenly believed he was African American. None of these victims were known to their attackers. None of these victims could have prevented the attacks. The victims were terrorized because their attackers wanted to send a violent message of hate to the African American community.

Last July 12, in Shenandoah, PA, Luis Ramirez, a 25-year-old Mexican and father of two, was beaten by several drunken students from the local high school. Authorities said the teenagers yelled ethnic slurs as they punched and kicked Mr. Ramirez, causing him to lose consciousness and begin to foam at the mouth. As a result of the attack, Mr. Ramirez died 2 days later. During the attack, one of the assailants reportedly yelled, "tell your . . . Mexican friends to get . . . out of Shenandoah . . ." According to Pennsylvania Governor Rendell, "Luis Ramirez was targeted, beaten, and killed because he was Mexican." Yet after a jury trial in State court, the killers were acquitted of the most serious charges and convicted of simple assault—yes, simple assault.

As the result of this case, the Justice Department is currently investigating civil rights violations with one hand tied behind their back. Because the incident occurred while the victim was walking by a park, and because walking by a park may not be considered a "federally protected activity," the Justice Department is not able to fully investigate and prosecute this crime. This legislation closes the flagrant loophole that prevents prosecution of a hate crime when a victim is not engaged in a federally protected activity. It provides that hate crime perpetrators may be prosecuted, regardless of where their victim was or what they were doing when he or she was attacked.

In addition, this bill authorizes the Justice Department to make grants to State, local, and tribal authorities to combat, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes more effectively. During these times of economic crisis, State and local authorities are cash-strapped to deal with costly hate crime incidents. Investigations tend to be expensive. They require considerable law enforcement effort and extensive use of

grand juries. To ease the extraordinary costs and complexity of such cases, the bill authorizes \$5 million in Justice Department grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials who have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

The legislation also authorizes the Justice Department to make grants for State, local, and tribal programs that combat hate crimes committed by juveniles, including programs to train local law enforcement officers in identifying, investigating, prosecuting, and preventing hate crimes. With hate crimes against Latinos on the rise, and hate crimes against LGBT individuals on the rise, we must ensure that our State and local law enforcement authorities have all the tools and resources they need to combat, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

I am proud to take this opportunity to recognize the work of the Boston Police Department as the only major police department to incorporate hate crimes training into its mandatory training program. Unfortunately, many police departments around the country do not have the resources necessary to provide such training. This bill specifically authorizes the Justice Department to allocate funds for training so that other police departments may follow the example set by the Boston PD.

Violent attacks based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability deserve to be criminalized by Federal law. Our Nation must show that it will not permit these communities to be terrorized—one victim at a time.

For the past 10 years, the Senate and the House of Representatives have each passed this legislation on multiple occasions—only to face political setbacks that have prevented the measure from being enacted. Now, we must finish the job and send this legislation to the President for his signature. By doing so, Congress will be reflecting the will of the American people. We will be sending a strong message that hate crime violence will not be tolerated—and that every citizen deserves Federal protection against such crimes.

Religious leaders across the country support the amendment. As my colleagues know, the Golden Rule is recognized as one of the deepest principles in virtually every religious tradition. It is the simple principle that we ought to treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated. In the book of Matthew, chapter 7, Jesus says, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." This amendment embodies the Golden Rule by extending protection to individuals in communities that are vulnerable to violence fueled by hatred.

Religious leader, Pastor Joel C. Hunter, has said, "I would think that

the followers of Jesus would be first in line to protect any group from hate crimes . . . This bill protects both the rights of conservative religious people to voice passionately their interpretations of their scriptures and protects their fellow citizens from physical attack.”

Many religious groups have expressed their support for the bill, including the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Interfaith Alliance, the Presbyterian Church, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the United Methodist Church, and the Congress of National Black Churches.

Over 10 years have passed since the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act was first introduced in the Senate. Over 10 years have passed since Matthew Shepard was robbed, pistol whipped, tortured, tied to a fence, and left to die because he was gay. I commend Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, for her years of inspiring advocacy that have brought us to this moment. Now is the time for the Senate to vote and show that we will not allow domestic terrorism to tear apart the fabric of our Nation and take the lives of innocent Americans. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to follow their hearts and minds and vote in favor of this legislation.●

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY SUB- COMMITTEES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry has adopted subcommittees for the 111th Congress. On behalf of myself and Senator CHAMBLISS, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the subcommittees be printed in the RECORD.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS—111TH CONGRESS

Subcommittee on Rural Revitalization, Conservation, Forestry and Credit: Rural economic revitalization and quality of life; rural job and business growth; rural electrification, telecommunications and utilities; conservation, protection and stewardship of natural resources; state, local and private forests and general forestry; agricultural and rural credit.

Sen. Lincoln, Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Stabenow; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Casey; Sen. Bennet.

Republican Designee, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. McConnell; Sen. Grassley; Sen. Thune.

Subcommittee on Energy, Science and Technology: Renewable energy production and energy efficiency improvement on farms and ranches and in rural communities; food and agricultural research, education, economics and extension; innovation in the use of agricultural commodities and materials.

Sen. Stabenow, Chair; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Brown; Sen. Klobuchar; Sen. Bennet; Sen. Gillibrand.

Sen. Thune, Ranking; Sen. Lugar; Sen. Roberts; Sen. Johanns; Sen. Grassley; Republican Designee.

Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition, and Family Farms: Domestic and international nutrition and food assistance and hunger prevention; school and child nutrition programs; local and healthy food initiatives; futures, options and derivatives; pesticides; and general legislation.

Sen. Brown, Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Lincoln; Sen. Stabenow; Sen. Casey; Sen. Klobuchar; Sen. Bennet; Sen. Gillibrand.

Sen. Lugar, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. McConnell; Republican Designee.

Subcommittee on Production, Income Protection and Price Support: Production of agricultural crops, commodities and products; farm and ranch income protection and assistance; commodity price support programs; insurance and risk protection; fresh water food production.

Sen. Casey Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Lincoln; Sen. Brown.

Sen. Roberts, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. Johanns; Sen. Grassley; Sen. Thune.

Subcommittee on Domestic and Foreign Marketing, Inspection, and Plant & Animal Health: Agricultural trade; foreign market development; domestic marketing and product promotion; marketing orders and regulation of agricultural markets and animal welfare; inspection and certification of plants, animals and products; plant and animal diseases and health protection.

Sen. Gillibrand, Chair; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Klobuchar.

Sen. Johanns, Ranking; Sen. Lugar; Sen. McConnell; Sen. Roberts.

COMMENDING PETER ROGOFF

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a very special member of my staff who has recently been confirmed by the Senate to take on a critical role in the Obama administration.

Peter Rogoff has served on the Appropriations Committee staff for the last 22 years and he has been the committee's senior transportation adviser for the majority of those years. For the past 9 years, as I have served as either chairman or ranking member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Peter.

Peter has been a trusted adviser to me and a dedicated public servant to the constituents of both my home State of Washington and the constituents of every member of the subcommittee. I know that Peter's drive, knowledge, and experience will be an outstanding asset to President Obama and Transportation Secretary LaHood's team.

Peter and I have worked together through many challenges over the years, none greater than the events of September 11 and the transportation security issues that we were confronted with after. Peter's efforts weren't just limited to aviation security but also included initiatives to strengthen security in passenger rail, transit systems, our ports and all the systems that connect them. During those difficult times, Peter's understanding of our transportation safety systems was fully evident.

It is a knowledge that comes with experience. And not just the kind of expe-

rience you gain from studying policy at your desk, although I can attest that Peter has done a lot of that. It is the kind of experience you get from traveling out to accident sites, talking with inspectors, meeting with families, and working hands-on to ensure that we are taking steps to ensure that accidents are not repeated.

In the time that I have worked with Peter, he has regularly traveled across the country to participate in aviation, rail and ship inspections, and he has voluntarily gone to many accident sites. The expertise gained from these experiences has served this Congress and our country well in some very critical situations.

In fact, I still remember clearly the evening 2 years ago when we all watched in horror as the 1-35 bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. Immediately after that tragedy, I dispatched Peter to accompany Senator KLOBUCHAR to the scene, because I knew that he could help her identify the core issues and how the Federal Government could help.

Now I know that as FTA Administrator, Peter will face a set of wide-ranging challenges. But I also know that he has the transit know-how to hit the ground running. Peter will bring over two decades of working knowledge on financing, building, and safeguarding our country's transit systems.

I thank Peter for the guidance, enthusiasm, and expertise he has shown in the years he has led my efforts on addressing our country's transportation, housing and urban development needs. I also wish him luck as he takes on this tremendous responsibility and opportunity.

While his departure represents a big loss for our Appropriations Committee and my appropriations subcommittee, I respect and commend President Obama's decision to put Peter's expertise to work on addressing our country's transit future.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN B. HARL ROMINE JR.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senators SNOWE, ENSIGN, DEMINT, THUNE, WICKER, ISAKSON, VITTER, BROWNBACK, MARTINEZ, and JOHANNS, we would like to thank Captain Harl Romine for his service to the Nation and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Captain Romine has a long and distinguished career with the Coast Guard. From his enrollment in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy through his retirement later this month, Captain Romine has spent the better part of the last three decades serving his countrymen and protecting our Nation in the U.S. Coast Guard. During his service in the Coast Guard Captain Romine has exhibited the best characteristics of a Coast Guard officer: a deep dedication to duty, unsurpassed professionalism,