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Horse Cranes Evert

## Hate Crimes Event

New York, New York

April 3, 2000

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, thank you Senator Kind, I want to thank especially Senator Tom Duane, really has been an eloquent voice on behalf of this legislation. I want to thank Howard Katz and all of the advocates who are here, my friends NCDW, and from American Jewish Congress, and others who have put their voices and hard work behind this film. This is my thank you for being here, your eloquence and grace is honored, more than any of us could say. I want to thank Joseph Klein and those who have also spoken Arthur Eve, David Patterson, Deborah Glick, and Senator Mendes.

This is a very important gathering because we are making clear that New York can no longer lag behind the rest of the country in the emphasis must be placed as we begin this new century on stopping hate wherever it rears its ugly head. It is embarrassing that New York which has a rich history of intolerance of differences, that always served as a gateway to America, that celebrated the diversity of our people who are hundreds of years would lag behind the rest of the country on this important issue.

We have a lot of work to do to stamp out hate crimes because today people are victimized and killed for who they are. In 1998, the year for which we have the last figures, there were nearly 8,000 bias motivated cripple incidents around our country, and approximately 4,000 of those were motivated by racial bias, 1,400 by religious bias, and 1,000 by sexual orientation bias. When James Berg was tortured and murdered in Jasper, Texas, his killers were sending a message, weren't they? And when young Matthew Shepard was brutalized and left to die, his killers were also sending a message.

Unfortunately, here in New York, we are also not immune to hate. In addition to the two stories we have heard, we had incidents ranging from a dozen sacred catholic statues in Brooklyn being destroyed and defaced; we've had continuing damage to property with anti-Semitic slurs; we've had people like Joe Klein attacked at their schools; we've had vicious killings like Mrs. Mahon's son.

So we know that we in New York are not immune from the hate that too often stalks our land. I believe that this is a value statement of who we are as a people. We have to recognize and name the hate crimes for what they are.

Following the terrible shooting last year in Los Angeles at the Jewish Community Center, I went out there to speak against hate crimes and to urge the United States Congress legislation. I do not think any of us will ever get the image out of our minds of those little children holding hands and being led to safety and I sat in a room talking to the older children with their parents and it was sad to hear what it felt like to be targeted because of their religion.

We need to strengthen the law on the federal and state level that will permit us to battle these hate crimes and to stand taller as a nation and state against violence, discrimination, prejudice wherever we see it.

Certainly if I am elected to Senate, I will fight to pass legislation in Congress to make it easier to prosecute against crimes based on race, color, religion, national origin, and stand to include crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, and disability. We cannot afford to wait. Vicious times compel us to strengthen the justice department's ability to prosecute such crimes.

The facts that Republicans in Congress have not passed this legislation tell us how much of a fight we have and the fact that the Republicans here in the Senate in New York have not passed such legislation tells us they are allies with those Washington Republican who don't see the world the way we do.

I stand here today calling the New York Senate to step up to the plate and pass hate crimes legislation once and for all. I urge the Senate to join the rest of us, and particularly follow the lead of the assembly, and say clearly the discrimination of any kind has no place in our state and will not be tolerated.

It is a tragedy that New York, which has always represented a diversity of views and experiences, which has truly been the beacon of hope and opportunity for countless people would now lag behind other states in acknowledging what all of us know to be the facts. That a hate crime doesn't just hurt an

individual, it hurts the larger community, and it undermines the most sacred values that our country holds dear.

I believe that real leadership requires the Senate act on the discharge petition, to pass this bill as quickly as possible so that New York can join every other state on the east coast, save one, and put the kind of hate crimes that stalk our state and country in the light they deserve to be so that we all can rest more easily in insuring that such crimes don't take place and in punishing them strongly when they do. I'm delighted and honored to join leaders of the Assembly and Senate in calling New York to pass hate crimes legislation. Thank you very much.

Question: Mrs. Clinton, your Republican opponent, Rudy Giuliani has also been trying to get the state Senate majority to pass the hate crimes legislation. What can you do that he has not been able to do?

HRC: Well, I think he can come to Albany and talk to his fellow Republicans. What I read in the papers, Senator Bruno is his supporter, so I'd assume he'd have some influence if he is listening or if anyone is monitoring this on his behalf, I hope you pick up the phone, call him and ask him to call Senator Bruno right now.

Question: He's called repeatedly.

HRC: He's not come to Albany, my colleagues tell me. Not on hate crimes.

Question: He's called Albany.

HRC: He has not come to Albany. He needs to come here and look in the eyes of the Republican Senators who he is expecting to support him and tell them that they should do this because this is the right thing to do.

Question: Can you tell us why Senator Patrick Moynahan has not done this?

HRC: The Democrats in the Senate are united on behalf of hate crimes legislation. It is on the top of the list of those issues that they are pushing. And I think that we are trying to do the same thing in Washington that we are trying to do here in Albany to break loose from the Republican majority in the

house and the Senate.