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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Meesha Fenimore
954 McCue Street, Apt. 146
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Dear Meesha:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your thoughts on enacting hate crime legislation. It was good hearing from you.

I believe that all violent crimes are hateful. In Wyoming, if someone is found guilty of first degree murder, they could be sentenced to death. What could be a stronger deterrent?

Each state has the right to enact hate crime legislation if it chooses to do so, but I do not and will not circumvent a state's right to do that by supporting hate crimes legislation on the federal level. Wyoming's governor, legislature and her people know what is best -- they should make the decision to enact hate crimes legislation if they believe that is appropriate for the state.

I introduced a resolution in the House that condemned, in the strongest possible way, the brutal killing of Matthew Shepard. No attack of this kind can be forgotten. No attack of this kind can be excused. No attack of this kind can go unpunished. It is my hope, and the hope of the caring people of Wyoming, and the people throughout our country, that swift and judicious punishment fall upon those who committed this heinous act.

Our country must come together to condemn these types of brutal, nonsensical acts of violence. We cannot lie down, we cannot bury our heads and we cannot sit on our hands. Though our actions must be deliberative, they must also send a strong and ardent message to those who are intolerant of others. We will not stand for the arbitrary killing of others due to the hateful act of intolerance.

Matthew Shepard's father asked specifically that legislators not rush to enact hate crime legislation -- we should honor his wishes.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts on this very important issue. Please continue to keep in touch.

With warm regards,

Barbara

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

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