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Federal hate crimes resolution celebrated

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Civil rights activists, ministers and community leaders rallied Thursday in support of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

"Hate is not an American or a religious value," said the Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of The Interfaith Alliance and host of Air America's State of Belief.

Nearly 80 people gathered in front of the City and County Building in Denver to celebrate the passage of House Resolution 1592 by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday.

If signed into law, the legislation would give federal authorities additional jurisdiction over bias crimes and local law enforcement agencies resources to combat them.

Dr. Vincent Harding, professor emeritus at Iliff School of Theology, said it was not enough that the bill gets passed, but that attitudes need to be changed as well.

"We should teach children to love our differences, not to tolerate them, but to celebrate them," he said.