

AB 1947

Freedom from Hate Crimes

Assemblymember
Phil Ting
19TH DISTRICT



SUMMARY

In 2018, the State Auditor found that "law enforcement has not adequately identified, reported, or responded to hate crimes." AB 1947 follows the auditor's recommendations by requiring each law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes policy, including specific guidelines for recognizing, reporting, and responding to these crimes.

BACKGROUND

Hate crimes have surged in California and nationally since 2015, escalating more since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and still further in 2021.

The most commonly reported types of hate crimes are those committed with a racial, ethnic, or nationality bias, followed by sexual orientation and religious biases.

The Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has been largely targeted amidst the pandemic. California in particular has seen a rise in hate-fueled violence against Asian Americans, including recent brutal attacks against elderly Asian Americans.

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism's preliminary 2021 data shows large increases in anti-AAPI hate crimes in major cities nationally, including 173% in LA and an astonishing 567% in San Francisco. Overall nationally, hate crimes were reported up another 11%, with African Americans remaining the most targeted community and a resurgence in anti-Semitic hate crimes

The national coalition Stop AAPI Hate noted at least 931 hate incidents in the Bay Area alone in 2021, and nearly 4,000 incidents nationwide.

Despite the spike in reported cases, hate crimes are still notoriously underreported. For instance, 11 California cities with populations of at least 100,000 reported zero hate crimes in 2019. Anti-female and anti-disability hate crimes remain the most underreported in California.

The numbers reported and the incidents publicized reflect only a fraction of the actual numbers because of insufficient data collection and underreporting. This results in a significant lack of support and services needed within our communities, and instills fear among Californians.

THIS BILL

AB 1947 requires every law enforcement agency to adopt a detailed, specific policy instructing officers on how to identify, respond to, and report hate crimes.

It also requires agencies to submit their hate crime policies, brochures, and training schedules to the Department of Justice to ensure compliance.

This bill does not create or expand the definition of any crime, increase penalties for any crime, or preclude restorative justice sentencing for any crime.

SUPPORT

The Arc & United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration (sponsor)
Asian Law Alliance (sponsor)
California Asian Pacific American Bar Association (sponsor)
California Alliance for Retired Americans (sponsor)
California Association of Human Relations Organizations (sponsor)
California Council of Churches IMPACT (sponsor)

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California Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP (sponsor)
California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) (sponsor)
California Women's Law Center (sponsor)
Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, CSU San Bernardino (sponsor)
Feminist Majority Foundation (sponsor)
National Japanese American Citizens League (sponsor)
Sikh Coalition (sponsor)
Asians Are Strong
California Community Living Network
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California National Organization for Women (NOW)
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Chinese American Council of Sacramento
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Council on American-Islamic Relations-California (CAIR)
Dear Community
Disability Rights California
Hindu American Foundation
Islamic Networks Group (ING)
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Not In Our Town
PathPoint, Santa Barbara
San Francisco Community Alliance for Unity, Strength and Safety (SF CAUSE)
San Francisco Japanese American Citizens League
Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence
transwomen 4 transwomen

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