

May 14, 2021

Dear Representative,

We stand together in support of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (H.R. 1843) and the newly reintroduced bipartisan Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (H.R. 2383). In March, national Jewish communal organizations called upon congressional leadership to speak out in solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and for months we have worked to support the NO HATE Act. Now, following near unanimous passage in the Senate on April 22, we urge our elected leaders to swiftly pass these common-sense bills through the House of Representatives.

Hate crimes are on the rise in America. According to the 2019 Hate Crime Statistics released by the FBI, hate crimes had risen to the highest levels in a decade. Over the same period, hate crimes targeting Jewish Americans represented more than 60% of all religiously motivated incidents. Since then, ADL reported that antisemitic and racist propaganda incidents doubled in 2020. The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center fielded approximately 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian hate from March 2020 to February 2021, a shocking number that was likely only a fraction of what the community experienced.

Even with the dismaying numbers the annual FBI report cites, it grossly underestimates the number of hate crimes because participation by local law enforcement agencies in the FBI's hate crime data collection system is not mandatory. While there are many reasons why an incident might not be reported to the FBI, incomplete data reporting undermines communities' protection and hinders national efforts to address rising domestic hate.

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act would strengthen federal efforts to address hate crimes directed at Asian-Americans and provide guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies to establish online hate crime reporting processes in multiple languages. Meanwhile, the NO HATE Act would assist the FBI in collecting hate crimes data and give the Department of Justice the ability to better analyze these crimes. These bills together would strengthen law enforcement's ability to respond to hate crimes at the state and local level.

Providing resources to effectively track and analyze hate crimes will be a good first step towards that goal. Congress can – and must – lead by providing the resources and tools that law enforcement needs to protect communities facing the threat of rising hate. That is why we support the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act and the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, and urge you to vote for them when considered in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,
Jewish Federations of North America
American Jewish Committee
Anti-Defamation League
Agudath Israel of America

Ameinu
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
BBYO
B'nai B'rith International
Guardians of the Sick
Habonim Dror North America
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HIAS
JCC Association of North America
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Women International
Jewish World Watch
Keshet
Khazbar
Moving Traditions
National Association of Jewish Legislators
National Council of Jewish Women
NCSEJ
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Project Witness
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinic Council of America
Reconstructing Judaism
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
The Workers Circle
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ)
Women of Reform Judaism

State and Local Organizations

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, St. Cloud State University
Congregation Beth Shalom – Anchorage, AK
EquaSion – Cincinnati, OH
The Farkas Center for the Study of the Holocaust in Catholic Schools – San Francisco, CA
Goldring Family Foundation Center for Jewish-Multicultural Affairs – New Orleans, LA
Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis
Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Purdue University
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center – Cincinnati, OH

The Interfaith Center at Miami University InterfaithCincy
Isaac M. Wise Temple – Cincinnati, OH
Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
Jewish Community Relations Council - a Division of the Jewish Federation of Sacramento
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati
Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee – Detroit
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
Jewish Democratic Women’s Salon, Atlanta
Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation of Chicago
Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee
The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga
Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas
Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg
Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City
The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven
Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Peoria
The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties
Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey
JEVS Human Services – Philadelphia, PA
JVS Human Services – Detroit, MI
Memphis Jewish Federation
Merage Jewish Community Center of Orange County
Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
The Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Gencoide, and Crimes Against
Humanity at Western Washington University
San Francisco Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund
Siegel JCC – Wilmington, DE
Temple Beth Sholom – Las Vegas, NV
The Temple – Atlanta, GA
UJA-Federation of New York
YWCA Greater Cincinnati
Zoroastrian Association of KY, OH, & IN

Cc:

Rep. Vern Buchanan
Rep. Donald S. Beyer, Jr., Sponsor, H.R. 2383
Rep. Judy Chu
Rep. James E. Clyburn, Majority Whip
Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader
Rep. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
Rep. Grace Meng, Sponsor, H.R. 1843
Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
Rep. Steve Scalise, Minority Whip
Rep. Fred Upton