



National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force strongly supports the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (LLEHCPA) (H.R. 1592, S. 1105).

The LLEHCPA:

- Amends the existing federal hate crimes statute that addresses crimes based on race, religion and national origin to effectively remove the requirement that victims are targeted because they are engaged in a federally protected activity (such as voting or attending school).
- Extends the federal hate crimes statute to cover violent and attempted violent crimes based on a person's gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
- Authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist state and local governments in investigating and/or prosecuting hate crimes.
- Authorizes the DOJ to assume jurisdiction over a hate crime if a state/locality requests it, if a state/locality is unable or unwilling to pursue the case, or if the outcome of the case does not satisfy federal interest in eradicating hate crimes. The attorney general or his/her designee must certify that one of these conditions is met before a federal prosecution may proceed.
- Authorizes grants to jurisdictions for 1) extraordinary expenses associated with investigating and prosecuting hate crimes and 2) programs designed to combat hate crimes committed by juveniles.

Hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people

Hate crimes particularly affect the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The FBI documented 1,213 victims of anti-LGB violence in 2005 — roughly 14 percent of all reported hate crimes that year. However, the FBI's statistics underestimate the prevalence of such crimes. In 2006, gathering data from only 12 regions of the country, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs documented 1,834 victims of anti-LGBT violence, 11 of whom were murdered.

Support for the LLEHCPA

More than 210 civil rights, educational, religious and civic organizations have voiced support for the LLEHCPA. Nearly all of the nation's major law enforcement organizations have endorsed it, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and 31 state attorneys general.

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