

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1843

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CHU, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BUSH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KIND, Mr. JONES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. BASS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. LEVIN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Hate
3 Crimes Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF COVID–19 HATE CRIMES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
7 shall designate an officer or employee of the Department
8 of Justice whose sole responsibility during the applicable
9 period shall be to facilitate the expedited review of
10 COVID–19 hate crimes and reports of any such crime to
11 Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “applicable period” means the pe-
14 riod beginning on the date on which the officer or
15 employee is designated under subsection (a), and
16 ending on the date that is one year after the date
17 on which the emergency period described in subpara-
18 graph (B) of section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Secu-
19 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)) ends, except
20 that the Attorney General may extend such period
21 as appropriate.

22 (2) The term “COVID–19 hate crime” means
23 a crime of violence (as such term is defined under
24 title 18, United States Code) that is motivated by—

25 (A) the actual or perceived race, ethnicity,
26 age, color, religion, national origin, sexual ori-

1 entation, gender, gender identity, or disability
 2 of any person; and

3 (B) the actual or perceived relationship to
 4 the spread of COVID–19 of any person because
 5 of the characteristic described in subparagraph
 6 (A).

7 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE.**

8 (a) GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
 9 CIES.—The Attorney General shall issue guidance for
 10 State and local law enforcement agencies on the following:

11 (1) The establishment of online reporting of
 12 hate crimes or incidents, and the availability of on-
 13 line reporting in multiple languages.

14 (2) The expansion of culturally competent and
 15 linguistically appropriate public education cam-
 16 paigns, and the collection of data and public report-
 17 ing of hate crimes.

18 (b) BEST PRACTICES TO DESCRIBE THE COVID–19
 19 PANDEMIC.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of
 20 Health and Human Services, in coordination with the
 21 COVID–19 Health Equity Task Force and community-
 22 based organizations, shall issue guidance describing best
 23 practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in
 24 describing the COVID–19 pandemic.

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