

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6328

To establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Hate Crimes
5 Hotline Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The most recent Federal Bureau of Inves-
4 tigation hate crimes report notes an increase of hate
5 crimes with 5,850 hate crime incidents reported to
6 police in 2015, a 6.8 percent increase over 2014.

7 (2) The same report found in one year, anti-
8 Muslim hate crimes in the United States rose 67
9 percent.

10 (3) Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 9 percent,
11 anti-Black hate crimes went up by almost 8 percent,
12 and anti-LGBT hate crimes increased by nearly 5
13 percent.

14 (4) It has been widely recognized that there has
15 been an intensification of hate speech and threats
16 based on religion and ethnicity throughout 2015 and
17 2016. For example, it has been publicly reported
18 that between August 2015 and July 2016,
19 2,600,000 anti-Semitic tweets were sent by Twitter
20 users, with around 800 Jewish journalists receiving
21 approximately 19,000 of the tweets.

22 (5) Multiple Jewish journalists have reported
23 receiving letters at their home containing anti-Se-
24 mitic messages.

25 (6) An Associated Press analysis suggests hate
26 crimes go largely under-reported, noting that 2,800

1 city police and county sheriff’s departments across
2 the country did not submit a single hate crime re-
3 port for the FBI’s annual crime tally during the
4 past six years, constituting 17 percent of all city and
5 county law enforcement agencies nationwide.

6 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL HATE CRIME HOTLINE AND HATE CRIME**
7 **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE WEBSITE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award
9 one or more grants to private, nonprofit entities—

10 (1) to provide for the establishment and oper-
11 ation of a national, toll-free telephone hotline to pro-
12 vide information and assistance to victims of hate
13 crimes (hereafter in this section referred to as the
14 “national hate crime hotline”); and

15 (2) to provide for the establishment and oper-
16 ation of a highly secure Internet website to provide
17 that information and assistance to such victims
18 (hereafter in this section referred to as the “hate
19 crime information and assistance website”).

20 (b) DURATION.—A grant under this section may ex-
21 tend over a period of not more than 5 years.

22 (c) ANNUAL APPROVAL.—The provision of payments
23 under a grant awarded under this section shall be subject
24 to annual approval by the Attorney General and subject

1 to the availability of appropriations for each fiscal year
2 to make the payments.

3 (d) HOTLINE ACTIVITIES.—An entity that receives a
4 grant under this section for activities described, in whole
5 or in part, in subsection (a)(1) shall use funds made avail-
6 able through the grant to establish and operate a national
7 hate crime hotline. In establishing and operating the hot-
8 line, the entity shall—

9 (1) contract with a carrier for the use of a toll-
10 free telephone line;

11 (2) employ, train (including technology train-
12 ing), and supervise personnel to answer incoming
13 calls and provide counseling and referral services to
14 callers on a 24-hour-a-day basis;

15 (3) assemble and maintain a current database
16 of information relating to services for victims of hate
17 crimes to which callers throughout the United States
18 may be referred;

19 (4) publicize the national hate crime hotline to
20 potential users throughout the United States; and

21 (5) be prohibited from asking hotline callers
22 about their citizenship status.

23 (e) SECURE WEBSITE ACTIVITIES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity that receives a
25 grant under this section for activities described, in

1 whole or in part, in subsection (a)(2) shall use funds
2 made available through the grant to provide grants
3 for startup and operational costs associated with es-
4 tablishing and operating a hate crime information
5 and assistance website.

6 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The hate crime informa-
7 tion and assistance website shall be available to the
8 entity operating the national hate crime hotline.

9 (3) INFORMATION.—The hate crime informa-
10 tion and assistance website shall provide accurate in-
11 formation that describes the services available to vic-
12 tims of hate crimes, including health care and men-
13 tal health services, social services, transportation,
14 and other relevant services.

15 (4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
16 section shall be construed to require any shelter or
17 service provider, whether public or private, to be
18 linked to the hate crime information and assistance
19 website or to provide information to the recipient of
20 the grant described in paragraph (1) or to the
21 website.

22 (f) APPLICATION.—The Attorney General may not
23 award a grant under this section unless the Attorney Gen-
24 eral approves an application for such grant. To be ap-

1 proved by the Attorney General under this subsection an
2 application shall—

3 (1) contain such agreements, assurances, and
4 information, be in such form, and be submitted in
5 such manner, as the Attorney General shall pre-
6 scribe through notice in the Federal Register;

7 (2) in the case of an application for a grant to
8 carry out activities described in subsection (a)(1), in-
9 clude a complete description of the applicant's plan
10 for the operation of a national hate crime hotline, in-
11 cluding descriptions of—

12 (A) the training program for hotline per-
13 sonnel, including technology training to ensure
14 that all persons affiliated with the hotline are
15 able to effectively operate any technological sys-
16 tems used by the hotline;

17 (B) the hiring criteria for hotline per-
18 sonnel;

19 (C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
20 nance, and updating of a resource database;

21 (D) a plan for publicizing the availability
22 of the hotline;

23 (E) a plan for providing service to non-
24 English speaking callers, including service

1 through hotline personnel who speak Spanish;
2 and

3 (F) a plan for facilitating access to the
4 hotline by persons with hearing impairments;

5 (3) in the case of an application for a grant to
6 carry out activities described in subsection (a)(2)—

7 (A) include a complete description of the
8 applicant's plan for the development, operation,
9 maintenance, and updating of information and
10 resources of the hate crime information and as-
11 sistance website;

12 (B) include a certification that the appli-
13 cant will implement a high level security system
14 to ensure the confidentiality of the website, tak-
15 ing into consideration the safety of hate crime
16 victims; and

17 (C) include an assurance that, after the
18 third year of the website project, the recipient
19 of the grant will develop a plan to secure other
20 public or private funding resources to ensure
21 the continued operation and maintenance of the
22 website;

23 (4) demonstrate that the applicant has recog-
24 nized expertise in the area of hate crimes and a
25 record of high quality service to victims of hate

1 crimes, including a demonstration of support from
2 advocacy groups;

3 (5) demonstrate that the applicant has a com-
4 mitment to diversity, and to the provision of services
5 to ethnic, racial, religious, and non-English speaking
6 minorities, in addition to older individuals, individ-
7 uals with disabilities, and individuals of various gen-
8 der, gender identity, and sexual orientation; and

9 (6) contain such other information as the Attor-
10 ney General may require.

11 (g) HATE CRIME DEFINED.—For purposes of this
12 Act, the term “hate crime” means a crime in which the
13 defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of
14 a property crime, the property that is the object of the
15 crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, reli-
16 gion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,
17 disability, or sexual orientation of any person.

18 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
20 appropriated to carry out this section \$3,500,000 for
21 each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

22 (2) WEBSITE.—Of the amounts appropriated
23 pursuant to paragraph (1) for a year, not less than
24 10 percent shall be used for purposes of carrying out
25 subsection (a)(2).

1 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds authorized to be ap-
2 propriated under paragraph (1) may remain avail-
3 able until expended.

4 **SEC. 4. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION AND**
5 **TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award
7 grants to eligible State and local law enforcement entities
8 for educational and training programs on solving hate
9 crimes (as defined in section 3(g)) and establishing com-
10 munity dialogues with groups whose members are at-risk
11 of being victims of such hate crimes.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
13 under subsection (a), a State or local law enforcement en-
14 tity must be in compliance with reporting requirements
15 applicable to such entity pursuant to the Hate Crimes Sta-
16 tistics Act (28 U.S.C. 534 note).

17 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2017 and each
20 succeeding fiscal year.

21 **SEC. 5. LOCAL RESOURCES TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES**
22 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall estab-
24 lish a grant program within the Office for Victims of
25 Crime in the Office of Justice Programs, under which the

1 Attorney General may award grants to local community
2 based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and faith-
3 based organizations to establish or expand local programs
4 and activities that serve targeted areas and that provide
5 legal, health (including physical and mental health), and
6 other support services to victims of hate crimes (as defined
7 in section 3(g)). Grant funds may be used for activities
8 including hiring counselors and providing training, re-
9 sources, language support services, and information to
10 such victims.

11 (b) TARGETED AREA DEFINED.—For purposes of
12 this section, the term “targeted area” means an area with
13 a demonstrated lack of resources, as determined by the
14 Attorney General, for victims of hate crimes.

15 (c) FUNDING RESTRICTION.—None of the funds from
16 a grant made under this section may be used—

17 (1) by an organization that discriminates
18 against an individual on the basis of religion; or

19 (2) for purposes of promoting religious beliefs
20 or views.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2017 and each
24 succeeding fiscal year.

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