

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6332

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

Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. TAKANO) 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) Nationwide, the number of hate groups in
4 the United States increased by 14 percent in 2015
5 according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

6 (2) According to the Federal Bureau of Inves-
7 tigation, of the hate crimes in 2015, 59.2 percent of
8 the offenses were racially motivated, 19.4 percent were
9 motivated by anti-LGBT animus, and 19.7 percent
10 targeted religion.

11 (3) In 2015, according to the Federal Bureau
12 of Investigation, 4,482 individuals were victims of
13 crimes against persons, and 57.5 percent of these in-
14 dividuals were victims of assault.

15 (4) According to the Bureau of Justice Statis-
16 tics, an average of more than 250,000 people a year
17 are victims of hate crimes, but most incidents are
18 not reported.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL HATE CRIME HOTLINE AND HATE CRIME**
20 **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE WEBSITE.**

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

23 (1) to provide for the establishment and oper-
24 ation of a national, toll-free telephone hotline to pro-
25 vide information and assistance to victims of hate

1 crimes (hereafter in this section referred to as the
2 “national hate crime hotline”); and

3 (2) to provide for the establishment and oper-
4 ation of a highly secure Internet website to provide
5 that information and assistance to such victims
6 (hereafter in this section referred to as the “hate
7 crime information and assistance website”).

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

10 (c) ANNUAL APPROVAL.—The provision of payments
11 under a grant awarded under this section shall be subject
12 to annual approval by the Attorney General and subject
13 to the availability of appropriations for each fiscal year
14 to make the payments.

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

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

23 (2) employ, train (including technology train-
24 ing), and supervise personnel to answer incoming

1 calls and provide counseling and referral services to
2 callers on a 24-hour-a-day basis;

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

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

9 (5) be prohibited from asking hotline callers
10 about their citizenship status.

11 (e) SECURE WEBSITE ACTIVITIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity that receives a
13 grant under this section for activities described, in
14 whole or in part, in subsection (a)(2) shall use funds
15 made available through the grant to provide grants
16 for startup and operational costs associated with es-
17 tablishing and operating a hate crime information
18 and assistance website.

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

22 (3) INFORMATION.—The hate crime informa-
23 tion and assistance website shall provide accurate in-
24 formation that describes the services available to vic-
25 tims of hate crimes, including health care and men-

1 tal health services, social services, transportation,
2 and other relevant services.

3 (4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
4 section shall be construed to require any shelter or
5 service provider, whether public or private, to be
6 linked to the hate crime information and assistance
7 website or to provide information to the recipient of
8 the grant described in paragraph (1) or to the
9 website.

10 (f) APPLICATION.—The Attorney General may not
11 award a grant under this section unless the Attorney Gen-
12 eral approves an application for such grant. To be ap-
13 proved by the Attorney General under this subsection an
14 application shall—

15 (1) contain such agreements, assurances, and
16 information, be in such form, and be submitted in
17 such manner, as the Attorney General shall pre-
18 scribe through notice in the Federal Register;

19 (2) in the case of an application for a grant to
20 carry out activities described in subsection (a)(1), in-
21 clude a complete description of the applicant’s plan
22 for the operation of a national hate crime hotline, in-
23 cluding descriptions of—

24 (A) the training program for hotline per-
25 sonnel, including technology training to ensure

1 that all persons affiliated with the hotline are
2 able to effectively operate any technological sys-
3 tems used by the hotline;

4 (B) the hiring criteria for hotline per-
5 sonnel;

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

8 (D) a plan for publicizing the availability
9 of the hotline;

10 (E) a plan for providing service to non-
11 English speaking callers, including service
12 through hotline personnel who speak Spanish;
13 and

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

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

18 (A) include a complete description of the
19 applicant's plan for the development, operation,
20 maintenance, and updating of information and
21 resources of the hate crime information and as-
22 sistance website;

23 (B) include a certification that the appli-
24 cant will implement a high level security system
25 to ensure the confidentiality of the website, tak-

1 ing into consideration the safety of hate crime
2 victims; and

3 (C) include an assurance that, after the
4 third year of the website project, the recipient
5 of the grant will develop a plan to secure other
6 public or private funding resources to ensure
7 the continued operation and maintenance of the
8 website;

9 (4) demonstrate that the applicant has recog-
10 nized expertise in the area of hate crimes and a
11 record of high quality service to victims of hate
12 crimes, including a demonstration of support from
13 advocacy groups;

14 (5) demonstrate that the applicant has a com-
15 mitment to diversity, and to the provision of services
16 to ethnic, racial, religious, and non-English speaking
17 minorities, in addition to older individuals, individ-
18 uals with disabilities, and individuals of various gen-
19 der, gender identity, and sexual orientation; and

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

22 (g) HATE CRIME DEFINED.—For purposes of this
23 Act, the term “hate crime” means a crime in which the
24 defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of
25 a property crime, the property that is the object of the

1 crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, reli-
2 gion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,
3 disability, sexual orientation, perceived sexual identifica-
4 tion, or perceived gender identity of any person.

5 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

9 (2) WEBSITE.—Of the amounts appropriated
10 pursuant to paragraph (1) for a year, not less than
11 10 percent shall be used for purposes of carrying out
12 subsection (a)(2).

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

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

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award
19 grants to eligible State and local law enforcement entities
20 for educational and training programs on solving hate
21 crimes (as defined in section 1(g)) and establishing com-
22 munity dialogues with groups whose members are at-risk
23 of being victims of such hate crimes.

24 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
25 under subsection (a), a State or local law enforcement en-

1 tity must be in compliance with reporting requirements
2 applicable to such entity pursuant to the Hate Crimes Sta-
3 tistics Act (28 U.S.C. 534 note).

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
6 such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2017 and each
7 succeeding fiscal year.

8 **SEC. 5. LOCAL RESOURCES TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES**
9 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall estab-
11 lish a grant program within the Office for Victims of
12 Crime in the Office of Justice Programs, under which the
13 Attorney General may award grants to local community-
14 based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and faith-
15 based organizations to establish or expand local programs
16 and activities that serve targeted areas and that provide
17 legal, health (including physical and mental health), and
18 other support services to victims of hate crimes (as defined
19 in section 1(g)). Grant funds may be used for activities
20 including hiring counselors and providing training, re-
21 sources, language support services, and information to
22 such victims.

23 (b) TARGETED AREA DEFINED.—For purposes of
24 this section, the term “targeted area” means an area with

1 a demonstrated lack of resources, as determined by the
2 Attorney General, for victims of hate crimes.

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

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

7 (2) for purposes of promoting religious beliefs
8 or views.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2017 and each
12 succeeding fiscal year.

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