



## **Hate Crimes Commission Act**

*This bill would create a bipartisan commission to investigate and expand reporting on hate crimes throughout the United States.*

In 2022, United States law enforcement agencies reported the highest number of hate crime incidents since the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began tracking them in 1991. [These reports](#) involved more than 13,000 related offenses as being motivated by bias toward race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity. The top bias types within these categories by volume of reported hate crime incidents included Anti-Black or African American for race/ethnicity/ancestry bias, Anti-Jewish for religious bias, and Anti-Gay (male) for sexual-orientation bias. However, these statistics only represent a fraction of actual incidents due to gaps in data collection and a lack of reporting from law enforcement agencies across the country.

The persistent rise in crimes motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender and/or gender identity continues to demonstrate the need for more accurate data to enable communities to effectively respond when these tragedies occur. Hate has no place in our communities and Congress must respond to the security of these hate incidents and crimes.

Senator Gillibrand's *Hate Crimes Commission Act* will establish the bipartisan, bicameral United States Commission on Hate Crimes. The commission would be tasked with investigating and reporting on whether hate crimes have increased; factors that contributed to an increase in hate crimes, if one is determined to exist; policies or action by law enforcement agencies to reduce the commission of hate crimes; the impact of underreporting on hate crimes statistics and prevention; and successful community bias prevention responses.

The commission would be comprised of a group of 12 members: appointed by the Senate majority Leader (2), Senate Minority Leader (2), Speaker of the House (2), House Minority Leader (2), the U.S. Attorney General (2), and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (2) to investigate and report to Congress on the status of hate crimes.

The investigation submitted to Congress will include data on:

- The number of hate crimes committed over the last 10 years;
- Factors contributing to a potential increase in hate crimes and incidents;
- Policies or actions law enforcement agencies might adopt or engage in to reduce the commission of hate crimes;
- The impact of underreporting on hate crimes statistics and prevention;
- How to improve hate crimes reporting by local law enforcement agencies, including identifying any barriers that may deter reporting;
- Community bias prevention responses that are successful and possible through coordination with nonprofit organizations, local education agencies, and government entities;
- The prevalence and rise of online hate crime incidents.

The report submitted to Congress will include the results of the investigation and include ways to improve hate crimes reporting by local law enforcement agencies and community bias prevention response.