



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 1619

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (H.R. 1843/S.937), which would facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes.

By Council Members Koo, Chin, Cornegy, Levin, Salamanca, Rivera, Lander, Ayala, Van Bramer, Treyger, Brannan, Vallone, Adams, Powers, Brooks-Powers, Moya, Ampry-Samuel, Dromm, Reynoso, Menchaca, Maisel, Cumbo, Miller, Gjonaj, Holden, Yeger, Cabrera, Feliz, Louis, Koslowitz, D. Diaz, Levine, Gennaro, Rose, Grodenchik, Dinowitz and Ulrich

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a sharp increase in the number of reported hate crimes and bias incidents against Asian Americans in New York City and nationwide; and

Whereas, According to a recent *New York Times* article, activists and police officials believe many potential hate crimes and bias incidents against Asian Americans in New York City have gone underreported or were not classified as hate crimes; and

Whereas, This underreporting and lack of recognition is due to various reasons, including the way hate crimes and bias incidents are designated; and

Whereas, Even with the underreporting, New York City has seen 35 anti-Asian crimes reported so far this year-including a recent attack against a 65-year-old Filipino woman near Times Square-compared to 28 during all of 2020, which itself was a jump from just 3 in 2019, according to New York Police Department (“NYPD”) statistics; and

Whereas, The spike in crimes against Asian Americans in New York City mirrors a nationwide increase, with Stop AAPI Hate-an initiative that tracks violence and harassment against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders-recording more than 3,000 reported incidents in the United States since the start of the pandemic, with at least 260 placed in New York City; and

Whereas, While the NYPD has created an Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Task Force to address this increase in bias-based crimes, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, (H.R. 1843/S.937), sponsored by U.S. Representative Grace Meng and Senator Mazie Hirono, respectively, would enhance such efforts at the federal level by: (1) designating an officer or employee of the Justice Department to facilitate expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes reported to federal, state, and/or local law enforcement; (2) issue guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies to establish online reporting of hate crimes/incidents available in multiple languages, and expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate public education campaigns, and collection of data and public reporting of hate crimes; and (3) issue guidance describing best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, (H.R. 1843/S.937), which would facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes.

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