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Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
April Verrett
Service Employees International Union

Harman Singh
Sikh Coalition
Bryan Fair
Southern Poverty Law Center
Janet Murgula
UnidosUS

President and CEO
Maya Wiley

February 9, 2026

Dear Representative,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (“The Leadership Conference”), a coalition of more than 240 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and its Hate Crimes Task Force, which includes civil rights, community, religious, and educational groups that work together to address and prevent hate crime, the undersigned 33 organizations write in support of H.R. 2588, the [Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act](#) (IRPHA).

This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Reps. Don Beyer, D. Va., and Don Bacon, R. Neb., is designed to improve the response to hate crime by making reporting and data collection more comprehensive and accurate. The bill would require large law enforcement agencies (those serving jurisdictions with more than 100,000 people) to report credible hate crime data to the FBI when receiving federal funding. Agencies serving jurisdictions of more than 100,000 that conduct significant community hate crime public education and awareness initiatives would also qualify for federal funding.

For nearly 35 years, the FBI has collected hate crime data from the nation’s 19,000 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, then used that data to produce the nation’s most important – yet still very incomplete – snapshot of hate violence: the annual [Hate Crime Statistics Act](#) (HCSA) report. Unfortunately, all crime reporting to the FBI is voluntary. Hate crime reporting, however, has been especially [incomplete and inadequate](#) because of lack of will or training, insufficient community trust of police, and language access challenges.

In 2024, a year of near record-breaking hate crime reports, thousands of police agencies across the country failed to report any hate crime data to the FBI – including seven agencies serving populations over 100,000 people. And 81% of the rest – including over 50 police departments that serve cities with more than 100,000 people – affirmatively reported to the FBI that they had zero (0) hate crimes.

We cannot address our nation’s growing hate crime problem without accurate information about its nature and magnitude. Improving data collection requires trust; targeted communities must be able and willing to report crimes, and police must be trained to effectively identify, report, and respond to hate violence. [Research](#)

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[confirms](#) that with better hate crime data, police can properly allocate resources and personnel to prevent crimes, provide services and support to hate crime survivors, and build trust and relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Preventing targeted hate-fueled vandalism and violence in America requires comprehensive data collection and reporting. Victims and survivors of hate-fueled violence – and their families and communities – deserve effective responses to this rise in hate. And without accurate data, it is not possible for Congress to allocate sufficient resources for communities in need.

We urge you to cosponsor and support H.R. 2588, the Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act, as a critical step towards preventing bias-motivated criminal acts.

If you would like to discuss this bill further or have any questions, please contact David Stacy at the Human Rights Campaign (david.stacy@hrc.org) or Maya Berry at the Arab American Institute (mberry@aaiusa.org), who serve as co-chairs of The Leadership Conference Hate Crimes Task Force.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
2nd Lt. Richard W. Collins III Foundation
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Government Information Watch
Hindu American Foundation (HAF)
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
Interfaith Alliance
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lambda Legal
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Matthew Shepard Foundation
Movement Advancement Project
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
NBJC
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

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National Urban League
Not In Our Town
PERIL, the Polarization & Extremism Research and Innovation Lab
PFLAG National
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Southern Echo Inc.
SPLC Action Fund
The Sikh Coalition
Union for Reform Judaism