



STAND TOGETHER AGAINST HATE

Chabad of Poway in California. The three synagogues in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life building. The Sikh Temple of Wisconsin. Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Charleston. The Pulse Bar in Orlando. The list goes on and on and on.

The new normal is anything but normal. Increasingly, people in vulnerable groups are being attacked and harassed for who they are, how they practice their faith and who they love. These hate crimes take aim not just at the individual victims, but they strike at the sense of security of whole communities. As elected officials, we must ensure that Pennsylvania's residents are free to practice their faiths and live their lives openly and safely.

Pennsylvania's laws must change now because they are simply not comprehensive and

inclusive enough. Hate crimes are at the highest point in decades, up nearly 20 percent from just last year. Those numbers only reflect the crimes that have been reported as such, but experts agree that most hate crimes are not properly classified, due to outdated laws and rules.

Pennsylvania's origins are in tolerance and religious diversity. This is where William Penn offered a haven for those to worship freely. This is where slavery fell out of favor before the United States Constitution was written.

This is where **we must reinvent the way we respond to hate crimes** and the people who commit them – with prevention, education, and if necessary, with punishment. This is where we will **stand together against hate.**

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Rep. Dan Frankel has a plan to give Pennsylvania the tools to prevent and address hate crimes across the Commonwealth.



Stand Together Against Ethnic Intimidation

Penalties for Pennsylvania's Hate Crimes laws should reflect the severity of the crimes. Committing a crime against a person based on race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, intellectual disability, physical or sensory or behavioral or mental health is a serious violation, and should include serious consequences.



Give Police the Tools They Need

Out of the 1,463 law enforcement agencies in the commonwealth, only 20 submitted information about hate crimes in 2017. These crimes are taking place across the Commonwealth, but current laws make it nearly impossible to classify them properly. This measure would give police additional state-supported training to identify and react to hate crimes to better protect the people of Pennsylvania.



Educate to Rehabilitate

Hate grows in isolation and thrives on ignorance. This bill would go beyond punishments for perpetrators of hate crimes to address the roots of their actions. In addition to criminal and civil penalties, people convicted of hate crimes would learn through education and exposure to those groups they targeted.

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Give Colleges and Schools the Tools They Need

College is a time to grow and learn and become an adult. We know hate groups are targeting college campuses where students may encounter peers from very different backgrounds in close quarters for the first time.

The Safe2Say program is a proven youth violence prevention plan that's working in our schools, educating youth and adults on how to recognize warning signs and signals from people who may be a threat to themselves or others report those dangers safely and anonymously. It's time to expand the program and give students the tools to recognize and report Hate crimes. This measure also would make certain that students can safely and anonymously report hate crimes to campus officials so they can stop harassment early.

*The Tree of Life tragedy shined a light on the shortcomings in Pennsylvania law relating to hate crimes and ethnic intimidation. Unfortunately, the Tree of Life incident is not the first and may not be the last crime committed in the Commonwealth fueled by hate. **Let's stand together, let's fight together, let's learn together, let's show the nation and the world that Hate has no place in PA!***