

February 5, 2024

The Honorable James B. Eldridge
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 511-C
Boston, MA 02113

The Honorable Michael S. Day
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02113

Dear Chairpersons Eldridge and Day:

As Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee of the Hate Crimes Task Force, I hereby submit this letter on behalf of the Hate Crimes Task Force in support of the below listed legislation.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 221(c)(vi) the Hate Crimes Task Force shall “recommend any appropriate legislation, regulations, policies or procedures to better combat hate crimes.” During the course of 2023, the Hate Crimes Task Force received presentations on pending hate crimes legislation in the Commonwealth. The Legislative Subcommittee received further presentations from some of the bill sponsors. Based off of these presentations, the Legislative Subcommittee held meetings to discuss the legislation and ultimately made recommendations to the Hate Crimes Task Force on bills it recommended that the Task Force should support.

At its December 18, 2023 meeting, the Hate Crimes Task Force voted to support the following legislation:

1. HB1473 – An Act to advance hate-crime protection for victims who are targeted due to their gender
2. HB1766 – An Act regulating sentencing for hate crimes
3. SB914 – An Act relative to the addition of sex and gender as protected class categories for hate crime prosecutions
4. Section 2 of HB1392 – An Act to amend the definition of hate crime

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Robert Trestan, Chair
Legislative Subcommittee of the Hate Crimes Task Force

cc: Representative Michelle DuBois
Representative Priscilla Sousa
Senator William Brownsberger
District Attorney Marian Ryan