

February 5, 2024

The Honorable John C. Velis  
Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery  
State House, Room 513  
Boston, MA 02113

The Honorable Adrian C. Madaro  
Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery  
State House, Room 33  
Boston, MA 02113

Dear Chairpersons Velis and Madaro:

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:

- HB1985/ SB1244 – An Act building resiliency in communities through mental health

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 Brandy Fluker-Oakley  
Senator Julian Cyr