



#CallToAction

#IncreaseHateCrimeProtection

Tell CT Legislators You SUPPORT this measure
All Materials and Resources Courtesy of ATCT

What:

- Support Committee Bill 5743 to increase penalties for hate crimes and expand definitions of what constitutes a hate crime (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/TOB/h/2017HB-05743-R01-HB.htm>)
- As our national climate grows increasingly hostile towards already marginalized groups, help Connecticut strengthen protections against hate crimes through expanded definitions and increased penalties
- For information on hate crime statistics and national trends, please visit the below links:
From the FBI - <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2015> (You can access additional years from this page)
From the Anti-Defamation League - <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/combat-hate/hate-crimes>
From the SPLC - <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2017/trump-effect>
Lots of good info about specific post-election events, especially around places of worship, schools)

When:

- Written & Phone Campaign: 3/24/2017 thru 3/27/2017
- In Person Testimony: 3/27/2017 at 10 AM, Room 2B of the LOB

How: Any or all of the below are an option. *Contact Kate Conetta for support and guidance on written testimony and Theda Lambert for in-person testimony. You can message them on FB or email kate.conetta@gmail.com.*

- Submit written testimony to judtestimony@cga.ct.gov (examples on next page)
- Deliver your testimony in person on Monday 3/27 in the Hartford Legislative Office Building (see <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp> or contact Lisa Kelly)
- Call & email committee members to voice your support <https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud>

Sample Phone Script: Hello, this is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [YOUR TOWN/CITY], Connecticut. I'm calling in support of Committee Bill #5743, An Act Concerning Hate Crimes. Since the election, there has been a growing wave of hate-related incidents, including bomb threats to religious centers, targeted attacks on minorities and a serious increase in hate speech. **[Insert personal or local incident if you have one.]** In response to this, I think it's very important that Connecticut fortify its hate crime law to protect all of our citizens fully from this kind of antagonistic and damaging behavior. I hope the committee will do everything in its power to ensure this legislation is passed. Thank you.

General Guidelines for Testimony to be submitted to Legislative Committees

The CT General Assembly website has a helpful video and write up on delivering testimony

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp> & <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp>

Guidelines for Written Testimony: Email your one-page testimony as a word doc or PDF attachment to judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov. Be sure to include your full name and address. Testimony received before the public hearing will be reviewed by the committee. Testimony can be submitted after the hearing and will be part of the public record, and may be reviewed at a later time in the bill's consideration. If your representative is on the committee, copy him/her on your email to the committee, or send it to him/her separately with a note that you wish for them to support this bill.

Guidelines for Oral Testimony: Remarks should be similar to what is written, but must not take longer than 3 minutes to read.

Example Written Testimony:

Date

Your Name & Address

Testimony in **support** of

- Committee Bill 5743 An Act Concerning Hate Crimes

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is [your name], and I am from [your town], CT. [If applicable, indicate any organization or affiliation you have here.] I am writing to **support** Committee Bill 5743, An Act Concerning Hate Crimes.

[Paragraph on why you support strengthening hate crime laws, referencing any personal experience you have had with hate crimes, a relevant anecdote you may know, statistical support from a reliable source, as well as articulating a main argument from above.]

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely, [Name] [Address]