



COVID-19 Hate Crimes Bill

May 20, 2021, San Francisco, CA—Following a 364-62 vote in the House on Tuesday, President Joe Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes bill into law earlier today, in response to the national rise in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes and incidents.

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes bill, introduced by Representatives Grace Meng and Mazie Hirono, makes the reporting of hate crimes more accessible at the local and state levels. A point person at the Department of Justice would also be responsible for prioritizing the review of hate crimes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for local and state governments to conduct responses and programs to combat these incidents.

The API Council applauds President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and lawmakers for focusing on effective responses to the rise in AAPI hate crimes and incidents. Stop AAPI Hate has reported 6,603 incidents against our community nationally. Nearly 40% of Bay Area reported incidents have occurred in San Francisco alone, calling for the need for more victims and survivors resources and public safety protocols. The COVID-19 Hate Crimes bill will significantly contribute to much needed resources that will create a safer, victims-centered, and healing space for our community.

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