



**National District Attorneys Association**

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[www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org)

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the oldest and largest national, non-partisan organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country with more than 5,000 members nationwide, I write to express support for reintroduction of the *Justice for Victims of Hate Crimes Act*.

Prosecutors throughout the country continue to work to protect communities from hate-motivated crime and violence. In order to root out prejudice, law enforcement and advocates need the tools to hold bad actors accountable and ensure our justice system protects all Americans regardless of sexual orientation, religion, race or creed. Your proposed legislation takes important steps to provide our Federal prosecutor partners with clarity in the law to enforce hate crime statutes when appropriate. Specifically, the *Justice for Victims of Hate Crimes Act* states that prosecutors must prove that bias against a protected characteristic was a substantial motivating factor for the crime that is being charged. This important change addresses a split in federal courts on the interpretation of the motive requirement in the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009*.

Our members are confident that your legislation takes the necessary steps to improve the current Federal hate crime prevention law while providing prosecutors with the clarity needed to hold back actors accountable. We thank you for your tireless efforts to help us protect the communities we serve and look forward to working with your staff to move this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy G. Parr".

Nancy G. Parr  
NDAA President