



International Association of
Chiefs of Police

515 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357
Phone: 703-836-6767; 1-800-THE
IACP
Fax: 703-836-4543
Web: www.theiacp.org

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MBTA Transit Police
Boston, MA

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March 26, 2007

Chairman John Conyers
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers and Representative Kirk:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The legislation will allow the federal government to provide technical support to state and local law enforcement agencies that are investigating hate crimes. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Department of Justice to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to cover the costs of investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

Most hate crimes are, and should continue to be, investigated and prosecuted by state, tribal, and local authorities. Unfortunately, there are instances, where as a result of either insufficient resources or a lack of jurisdiction, state, tribal and local authorities are unable to properly investigate these crimes. In response, the legislation provides the Department of Justice (DOJ) with jurisdiction in crimes of violence which were motivated because of an individual's race, color, religion, national origin, disability, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

However, the legislation properly bars the exercise of federal jurisdiction until the DOJ certifies that state authorities have requested that the federal government assume jurisdiction or that they have consulted with state, tribal and local law enforcement and have determined that local authorities are either unwilling or unable to act.

The passage of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act will greatly assist state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. Thank you for your continued leadership and attention to this vital issue.

The IACP stands ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Carter
President