



May 11, 2020

The Honorable Assembly Member Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr.
Chair, Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2236 (Gabriel) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund is proud to support AB 2236 (Gabriel), which strengthens existing requirements for peace officers to undergo comprehensive hate crime training.

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund is a philanthropic catalyst, connecting Bay Area Jews—of all ages, backgrounds, and perspectives—to the power we have as a community to improve the world. We partner with donors, organizations, and foundations to address the pressing issues facing our community.

In 2018, the California State Auditor released a report with the key finding that law enforcement agencies have not adequately identified, reported, or responded to hate crimes. The audit found that the four surveyed law enforcement agencies failed to report a total of 97 hate crimes to the Department of Justice (DOJ), or 14 percent of the hate crimes identified. In addition, the audit found that the DOJ should provide more guidance to assist law enforcement agencies with the identification and investigation of hate crimes and outreach to vulnerable communities. Among other findings, the audit concluded that “law enforcement agencies’ inadequate policies and the DOJ’s lack of oversight have resulted in the underreporting of hate crimes in the DOJ’s Hate Crime Database.”

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of hate incidents directed against both the Asian-American and Jewish communities is on the rise. Other communities, including African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, Sikhs, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities also face a growing number of hate crimes. This worrying trend underscores the clear need for increased hate crime training for our law enforcement officers. The shocking increase in the number of hate groups has also made improving law enforcement’s ability to correctly identify and respond effectively to hate crimes a priority.

For these reasons, the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund supports AB 2236.

Sincerely,

Danny Grossman
Chief Executive Officer