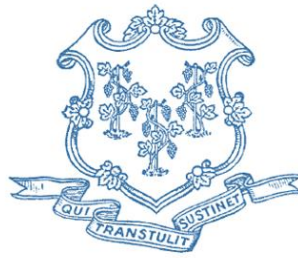


SENATOR SAUD ANWAR
DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Legislative Office Building
Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0347
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Anwar



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March 9, 2021

Senator Bradley, Representative Horn, Senator Champagne, Representative Green, Senator Osten, Representative Paolillo and esteemed members of the Public Safety and Security Committee: I write in support of *SB 122 – An Act Establishing A Unit Within the Division of the State Police to Investigate Hate Crimes and Criminal Acts Committed by Extremist Groups* with the following amendments: 1) Clarification that the Hate Crimes Unit will both investigate alleged crimes and prevent suspected crimes, 2) exclude investigations of extremist groups from requirements to maintain, issue and publish reports, 3) require any law enforcement units to report alleged or suspected hate crimes to the Hate Crimes Unit within 14 days of being notified, and 4) to require the Commissioner of DESPP to work with POST to develop and reevaluate on a bi-annual basis, standards for law enforcement units to report hate crimes to the Hate Crimes Unit, and for members of the public to identify and report suspected hate crimes.

The intent of this bill is to protect the residents of our state by creating a centralized Hate Crimes Unit under the Division of the State Police. The suggested amendments would enhance the function of this legislation by: a) requiring the development of a campaign of public awareness about reporting suspected or potential hate crimes similar to "see something, say something," b) requiring local law enforcement to report alleged or potential hate crimes to the Hate Crimes Unit within 14 days so that they can be promptly investigated for the benefit of public safety, and c) providing law enforcement with a standardized approach to investigating and preventing suspected and potential hate crimes. For the safety of the Citizens of Connecticut, I respectfully request that you support SB 122 and the amendments I described above.