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Alliance Urges Senate Committee to Pass Inclusive Hate Crime Law

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The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (Alliance) urges passage of a comprehensive hate crime law. Today, the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law heard testimony from over a dozen Hoosiers in support of passage of [SB 418](#) - a bill which would remove Indiana from one of the five states that does not have a bias crimes statute. The hearing today had supportive testimony, phone calls, and emails urging SB 418's passage; however, the Committee has chosen to delay a vote to consider potentially harmful amendments.

This year, city leadership and businesses joined with nonprofits and advocates to encourage passage of a law to remove the stain upon Indiana for employee recruitment. Testimony provided by Hoosiers during the hearing spoke of the economic impact of Indiana's lack of a hate crime law. Hoosiers targeted by hate crimes also provided powerful and heartbreaking testimony of not feeling welcome and having few options for justice. Without a hate crime law, Indiana would again send a message to businesses like Amazon and others that Indiana will not ensure safety, inclusion, and justice for their employees if a victim of a hate crime.

Numerous polls have shown overwhelming Hoosier support for passage of a hate crime law. Recently, the Ball State Hoosier Survey found that 65% of Hoosiers favor passage of a hate crime law with only 29% not favoring passage. Proponents strongly dismissed the idea that hate crimes legislation is only meant to protect a specific characteristic, but instead, demonstrated persuasively that every Hoosier would benefit by the passage of an inclusive and comprehensive hate crime law. In addition, the Alliance firmly stated that Indiana cannot allow the rhetoric and misinformation of a small and biased group of individuals who believe that Hoosiers should not have access to justice if targeted by hate due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Such a harmful amendment, as pending before the Committee, would impact Indiana's reputation negatively. Even the State of Georgia, one of the other five states currently without a hate crime law and with a city being reviewed by Amazon for their HQ2 location, is moving forward with passage of a law that includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate demands the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law vote to pass a comprehensive and inclusive SB 418 and send it to the Senate floor for passage. It is far past time for Hoosiers to have access to justice that they would have in forty-five other states. Hate crimes are meant to send a message of fear, hatred, and intolerance. They can and do tear apart the fabric of communities that experience them. Across Indiana we have been hearing of an increasing number of hate crimes occurring. The number of hate groups that call Indiana home have also increased in recent years. Let's send a message once and for all that we don't welcome these groups here, and we as a state will not tolerate hatred and bigotry in any form. For more information or updates, visit the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate's [Facebook page](#). Read the [Alliance's Fact Sheet](#) for more answers to frequently asked questions about a hate crime law.

About the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate

The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (Alliance) formed in March 2017 and is a group of individuals, nonprofits, and businesses that exist to reduce the occurrence and combat the consequences of hate crimes and hate-based incidents. The Alliance is a project of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. More information on the Alliance is at: <https://www.fhcci.org/ciaah/>

#IndianaNeedsAHateCrimeLaw