

Congressman Rothman Votes in Favor of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) voted in favor of H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The Bill gives state and local law enforcement additional tools and resources to prevent and prosecute hate crimes. The U.S. House passed the Act 249 to 175.

“Giving local law enforcement additional resources to provide adequate enforcement mechanisms to deter and prosecute hate crimes and ensure that safety is guaranteed to everyone just makes sense,” said Rothman. “Hate crimes have no place in our community or anywhere else.”

This bill extends existing hate crimes protections to more Americans. The current federal hate crimes statute provides for federal assistance in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes in the cases of a violent crime committed against persons because of their race, color, religion, or national origin. This bill closes the current gaps in federal law to also provide federal assistance in the cases of a hate crime committed against persons because of their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Another focus of this bill allows the federal government to provide crucial resources to state and local agencies to help prosecute hate crimes. The legislation also authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to make grants to state and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

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