

## 2009-K458

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York State Congressional delegation to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge the New York State Congressional delegation to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website; and

WHEREAS, A hate crime is a crime that is committed against a person because of prejudice or bias; victims of hate crimes are singled out simply because of their perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibility, physical handicap, matriculation, or political affiliation; and

WHEREAS, Unlike other crimes that target individuals, bias-related acts have a tremendous effect on an entire community; when one person is targeted because of race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or other characteristic, others in the community who were not the direct targets of the hate crime may also feel at risk; tensions between different communities can also arise as a result of a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, The hate crime information and assistance website shall provide accurate information that describes the services available to victims of hate crimes, including healthcare and mental health services, social services, transportation, services for children and other relevant services; and

WHEREAS, In establishing and operating the hotline, the entity shall: contract with a carrier for the use of a toll-free telephone line; employ, train, and supervise personnel to answer incoming calls and provide counseling and referral services to callers on a 24-hour-a-day

basis; assemble and maintain a current database of information relating to services for victims of hate crimes to which callers throughout the United States may be referred; and publicize the national hate crime hotline to potential users throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, In addition, hotline personnel should also demonstrate a commitment to diversity, and to the provision of services to ethnic, racial, and non-English speaking minorities, as well as to older individuals and individuals with disabilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York.