



## IN SUPPORT OF HB-917/SB-606

**To: Judiciary Committee (House) and Judicial Proceedings Committee (Senate)**

**From: Julio D. Murillo-Khadjibaeva, CASA de Maryland**

**Date: February 11, 2020**

**Re: Written Testimony in support of House Bill 917 and Senate Bill 606- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard Collins, III Law**

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I am submitting this written testimony to offer my absolute support for HB917/SB606. My name is Julio Murillo, Government and Strategic Relations Specialist at CASA de Maryland. CASA works to create a more just society by improving the quality of life for immigrant and working communities. According to a report by the federal government<sup>1</sup>, personal attacks motivated by bias or prejudice reached a 16-year high in 2018, with a significant upswing in violence against Latinos. In 2014 there were over 5,000 hate crimes committed, in 2016, that increased closer to 8,000, each year seeing a drastic increase. According to a 2017 FBI report the majority of the hate crimes reported were physical assaults, accounting for 61% of the reported hate crimes.

According to Brian Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, there is a shift from the more casual offender with more shallow prejudices to an assailant who acts alone and are becoming more violent. We see this here, the Defendant, Urbanski was alone when he walked up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Collins and drove a knife into his chest killing him. This was a violent, horrible, and hateful; act we must arm the courts with a statute they can use to ensure that anyone who commits hate crimes will pay the price. Last year, The Baltimore Sun compiled nearly 700 hate incident reports it had

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/12/us/hate-crimes-fbi-report.html>

obtained from public records requests into a database. <sup>2</sup> Most of the reported incidents do not end in a criminal conviction. Of the 100 incidents *verified* by police last year, less than 14 resulted in an arrest and even less in conviction.

Please strengthen the Hate Crimes Law. I respectfully ask for this committee's favorable report on HB917/SB606- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard Collins, III Law.

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Julio Murillo-Khadjibaeva,  
CASA de Maryland



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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-ci-hate-reports-decline-20191004-fjq64tuqrbhblitqoamsfqc5ia-story.html>