

Honorable Senators

I oppose HB1041.

One would think that everyone should be against hate crimes.

I am against this bill because it creates a separate category for crimes just for a few protected classes and, more importantly it assumes hate as a motivation.

For example, as a Christian if I should damage a Christian church, I would just be charged for the vandalism. I doubt anyone would wonder if I was motivated by hate, and even if I were, it would probably not be considered a hate crime.

However, if I should damage a Synagogue or a Mosque, there would be the inference that I did the vandalism because of hate, and I would face additional charges.

I realize that this bill is just a relatively minor modification to existing law, and my points should have been made when the original hate crime bill was presented, but because I am against the law establishing hate crimes, I am against expanding it.

There are sufficient laws to handle murder, assault, vandalism, etc. without creating additional crimes just for select subgroups of the population.

Please vote against HB1041.

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