



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has consistently "condemned acts of hatred, intimidation and violence which manifest prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, handicap status or sexual orientation;" and

Whereas, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission recognizes that "verbal and physical attacks on persons and property violate the civil rights of victims, weaken the moral character of communities and undermine the legal instruments of this state which guarantee equality and freedom to everyone;" and

Whereas, In 1994 the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was asked by then Governor Engler to form a Bias Crime Response Task Force (the "Task Force") including representatives from law enforcement, civil and human rights organizations, religious and civic groups; and

Whereas, The 1997 Report adopted by the Task Force made a number of recommendations including one that Michigan's "Ethnic Intimidation Act" be amended.

Whereas, The Task Force specifically recommended that amendments to the statute include (a) changing the name of the Ethnic Intimidation Act to "Bias Crime Act," (b) expanding the Act to include crimes against persons "perceived" to be members of a targeted group, (c) expanding coverage of the Act by adding age, handicap and sexual orientation, and (d) strengthening the penalty provision for violation of the Act, and;

Whereas, In 2009 the Michigan Civil Rights Commission joined numerous social justice groups, the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan State Police, and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan in support of House Bill 4836, which would have addressed each of the four Task Force recommended changes. The bill was passed by the House but was not acted on by the Senate; and

Whereas, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission believes the statutory changes recommended in 1997 were never more important than they are now:

It is Resolved: The Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports the immediate enactment of legislation strengthening Michigan's law combating bias motivated crimes; and

It is Further Resolved: The Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports legislation that, like 2009-HB-4836, which addresses each of the four recommendations made by the Bias Crime Task Force in 1997.



Adopted on the 25th day of July, 2016, by the

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Rasha Demashkieh, Co-Chair

Mumtaz Haque, Secretary

Ricardo Resio

Linda Lee Tarver

Arthur M. Horwitz, Co-Chair

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