



AB 886 (Bonta) – Hate Violence Victim Support

SUMMARY

This bill is a multi-faceted response to the recent surge in incidents of hate violence directed at Asian Americans and increases in hate crimes against many groups in recent years. AB 886 would fund community-based organizations that facilitate culturally competent and mental health services for victims of hate violence and restorative justice programs. AB 886 would also expand the eligibility for victims of hate violence to access victim compensation funds and not be denied solely because the victim did not file a police report.

BACKGROUND

Due to the underfunding of services for vulnerable communities and of training for mental health providers to serve diverse communities, it is difficult for many survivors of hate violence to access culturally competent and language accessible mental health services.

At present, the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board administers the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) and is authorized to compensate victims and derivative victims of specified types of crimes through a continuously appropriated fund, the Restitution Fund. Existing law sets that victims of hate violence are required to file a police report when applying to the victim compensation funds. This creates a barrier for victims of hate violence to receive funds and start their recovery.

THE NEED FOR THE BILL

The history of hate violence against Asian Americans in the U.S. is not new. Unfortunately, violence against Asian Americans has been on the rise due to a climate of fear, xenophobia, and racism during the COVID-19 pandemic, perpetuated by the highest echelons of government.

This bill is a community-centered solution to address hate violence, allocate resources to victims, and restore our community’s safety. All communities deserved to be seen, to be valued, and to be protected. The pain, hurt, and anger is heard. The state must call out hate violence and take legislative actions.

THIS BILL

AB 886 takes urgent and necessary steps to address the recent rise of hate violence towards Asian Americans. Specifically, AB 886 will:

- Support and fund restorative justice programs.
 - This approach addresses the victim’s needs and provides the individual who caused the harm with the tools not to recidivate.
- Increase funding for culturally competent and mental health services for victims.
 - This will expand access for victims of hate violence to services needed to recover from their trauma.
- Ensure that victims of hate violence are not denied victim compensation from the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) because they did not file a police report.

SUPPORT

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – California (AAAJ-CA) (Sponsor)
 Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)
 Asian American Pacific Islander Women Lead (AAPI Women Lead)
 Asian Pacific Islander Equality Northern California (APIENC)
 Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
 Asian Law Alliance

Bay Rising
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Family Bridges
Japanese American Citizens League – Berkeley,
Florin, Placer County, Sacramento Chapters and
Northern California Western Nevada Pacific
District (JAFL)
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
Oakland Asian Cultural Center
Project by Project, San Francisco

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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