



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

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February 12, 2007

By FAX Machine

Dear Representative:

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) urges you to cosponsor H.R. 1000, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (LLEHCPA). LLEHCPA would provide increased protection for all Americans, including Arab-Americans, from being the victims of hate crimes.

Arab-Americans have experienced a surge in hate crimes directed against them over the past several years. Immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the FBI documented a 1,600 percent increase in hate crimes against those perceived to be Muslim or Arab and a 130 percent increase in incidents directed at individuals on the basis of ethnicity or national origin. On a daily basis ADC continues to be contacted by members of our community seeking support following hate crime incidents. We are now calling upon Congress to send the message to all Americans that the federal government and law enforcement officials are committed to protecting all citizens from hate violence.

LLEHCPA will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies to combat hate crimes and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes.

This legislation only applies to bias-motivated violent crimes. It will not affect lawful public speech, preaching, or writing in any way. In fact, the legislation includes an explicit First Amendment free speech protection for the accused.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 is one of our organization's top legislative priorities for the 110th Congress.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee urges you to cosponsor this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kareem Shora, JD, LLM
National Executive Director

Christine Gleichert
Legislative Director

IN MEMORIAM

Hala Salaam Maksoud, PhD (1943-2002)
Alex Odeh (1944-1985)