

Dr. Jay M. Lipoff
23127 Three Notch Road
California, MD 20619

February 2nd, 2020

RE: Hate Crime Bill for Law Enforcement

To Whom It May Concern,

Law Enforcement has one of the toughest and thankless jobs on the planet. Every day there is a chance you will not return home to see your loved ones while you are doing a job most would not choose.

Enforcing the law is not easy but is requisite in order to keep citizens safe against those whose intentions are disingenuous. We have laws and they need to be enforced otherwise we are susceptible to chaos and uncontrollable crime sprees.

In the wake of the George Floyd murder, there was a disturbing trend to assault or kill police. Everyone agrees that Floyd's murder was wrong. Everyone believes law enforcement can do better. But to attack police is disgusting and disturbing and will certainly not lead us to a solution. To diminish their abilities to police is wrong!

In this day and age of entitlement and phone journalism, we are bombarded by snippets of Law Enforcement interactions with suspects. If anything bad should happen, officers are judged and criminalized instantaneously. In fact, people are rioting if an officer returns gun fire and hits the suspect. Read that again out loud. What are people thinking?

Decisions by the brave men and women who wear a badge and protect us and enforce the laws of this country have to make split-second decisions. You try it. Am I going to pull out my wallet, or a knife and stab you? It's really easy to decide when you watch a slow-motion video clip from your couch.

When suspects are detained, they are now becoming combatant and not obeying orders. When this persists, we will have lawlessness and chaos. This was clearly seen during any of the riots where officers were being attacked, businesses were destroyed, innocent people were murdered; yet funds were collected and started to get the arrested individuals released. There was no repercussion for looting, attacking people...nothing. The Laws of our Country were not enforced!

Sadly many on the news encouraged it. Here's just one example as CNN's Chris Cuomo said, "Please, show me where it says that protests are supposed to be polite and peaceful."

It started last year or so, when people thought it was funny to dump milk on a police officer while videotaping it of course. If someone dumped milk on me I would probably knock someone's teeth out, but an officer of the law is supposed to take that type of bullying and ridicule? Wrong!

When I was growing up I was taught to be respectful to law enforcement officers at all times. Never in my wildest nightmares would I believe I would see people cheering, videotaping or ganging up to beat or kill an officer. This is terribly wrong on so many levels.

Virginia has proposed new criminal justice reforms that will reduce an assault on law enforcement officers from a felony to a misdemeanor offense. This, after Virginia Democratic Governor Ralph Northam signed "Tommie's Law," making animal cruelty a felony offense in the Commonwealth. So animals are more valuable than the law enforcement officers serving and protecting the citizens within the Commonwealth of Virginia???

Watching the protests, it is very obvious that lawlessness has allowed rioters to run out of control, destroying business owners lives, beating business owners or beating people based on the color of their skin. How are citizens supposed to feel safe? Why did the Capital just surround themselves with the National Guard because of their safety concerns? Yet the public was NOT afforded the same security while chaos ensued.

At the same time, any police presence is met with insults, spitting in their faces, name-calling, having objects thrown at them, fireworks hurled at them, police vehicles destroyed, lasers to blind them, gunfire, explosives and the list goes on because it's okay and acceptable? No it's not okay. At all.

The number of officers injured in 2020 due to peaceful protesters is extremely high, at the same time killings have increased 100%, 200% and 300% in cities without police presence like there used to be. The number of officers shot in 2020 was up 7% since 2019, which was also a record high year. It is a disturbing trend. This hatred toward the brave men and women of law enforcement has to be stopped.

National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

@GLFOP

Dec 30, 2020

The demonization of police has made communities & our officers less safe. The increasing violence against police officers MUST be condemned by all! With 1 day remaining in 2020:

311 officers shot

47 killed by gunfire

51 shot in 40+ ambush attacks

According to an article on addictioncenter.com, Police Officers have a higher suicide rate than the general public, (10 out of every 100K in the public vs 17 officers per 100K, respectively). Many of these deaths can be blamed on society's hatred for them. Chicago's police suicide rate was 60% higher than the national law enforcement average.

Webster's Dictionary defines a Hate Crime as such - any of various **crimes** (such as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group. That group is Law Enforcement!

This is exactly what is happening to law enforcement when they are being attacked and it has to be stopped now!

We can't allow bad individuals to attack the very heroes that save a baby's life when they stopped breathing, or run toward gun fire in a crisis, or climb the stairs of a burning building to save whoever they can knowing there is a good chance they will be crushed by one of the Twin Towers as it falls.

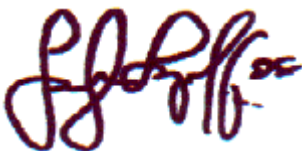
The need for police is more evident now than ever before. We cannot allow them to feel unwanted or unappreciated or that their job is not respected.

I encourage you to help me bring forth a law that protects all law enforcement officers from Hate Crimes that could injure these brave heroes.

A law that stands up for all of the heroes of law enforcement to say we have your back. To protect them against those that purposefully choose to harm them based on the group they are associated with. It's time for politics to be put aside and common sense celebrated as we create a law to protect those who protect and serve our communities bravely; without fear, without exhaustion and without intimidation.

Thank you for your time, consideration and for standing up for those that need us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read "J. Lipoff". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Jay M. Lipoff, C.F.T.

