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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MENG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Hate
5 Crimes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF COVID–19 HATE CRIMES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
9 shall designate an officer or employee of the Department

1 of Justice whose sole responsibility during the applicable
2 period shall be to facilitate the expedited review of
3 COVID–19 hate crimes and reports of any such crime to
4 Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies.

5 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) The term “applicable period” means the pe-
7 riod beginning on the date on which the officer or
8 employee is designated under subsection (a), and
9 ending on the date that is one year after the date
10 on which the emergency period described in subpara-
11 graph (B) of section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Secu-
12 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)) ends, except
13 that the Attorney General may extend such period
14 as appropriate.

15 (2) The term “COVID–19 hate crime” means
16 a crime of violence (as such term is defined under
17 title 18, United States Code) that is motivated by—

18 (A) the actual or perceived race, ethnicity,
19 age, color, religion, national origin, sexual ori-
20 entation, gender, gender identity, or disability
21 of any person; and

22 (B) the actual or perceived relationship to
23 the spread of COVID–19 of any person because
24 of the characteristic described in subparagraph
25 (A).

1 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE.**

2 (a) GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
3 CIES.—The Attorney General shall issue guidance for
4 State and local law enforcement agencies on the following:

5 (1) The establishment of online reporting of
6 hate crimes or incidents, and the availability of on-
7 line reporting in multiple languages.

8 (2) The expansion of culturally competent and
9 linguistically appropriate public education cam-
10 paigns, and the collection of data and public report-
11 ing of hate crimes.

12 (b) BEST PRACTICES TO DESCRIBE THE COVID–19
13 PANDEMIC.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of
14 Health and Human Services, in coordination with the
15 COVID–19 Health Equity Task Force and community-
16 based organizations, shall issue guidance describing best
17 practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in
18 describing the COVID–19 pandemic.