

REFERENCE TITLE: Matthew Shepard act; urge adoption.

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **SM 1002**

Introduced by  
Senators Aboud, Miranda: Aguirre, Arzberger, Hale, Rios, Soltero;  
Representative Sinema

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE MATTHEW SHEPARD LOCAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress and President of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, perpetrators of hate crimes select individuals because of who  
4 they are, devastating the lives of the victims and their families, and  
5 terrorizing entire communities; and

6 Whereas, a 2006 Harris interactive poll found that 64% of gays and  
7 lesbians are concerned about being a victim of bias-motivated crime; and

8 Whereas, it is commonly known that hate crimes remain underreported and  
9 undocumented for a variety of reasons; and

10 Whereas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) does not currently  
11 collect data on hate crimes based on gender identity, despite the fact that  
12 gender variant communities face some of the most horrific hate violence; and

13 Whereas, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, gathering  
14 data from only 12 regions in the country, documented 1,834 victims of  
15 anti-gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender violence in 2006, 11 of whom were  
16 murdered; and

17 Whereas, 1,195 of the 7,722 hate crimes reported to the FBI in 2006  
18 were based on sexual orientation, reflecting statistics gathered by 2,105 law  
19 enforcement agencies throughout the country; and

20 Whereas, 18% of the hate crimes in Arizona reported to the FBI in 2006  
21 were based on sexual orientation; and

22 Whereas, the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes  
23 Prevention Act would extend federal hate crimes statutes to cover violent and  
24 attempted violent crimes based on a person's gender, sexual orientation,  
25 gender identity or disability; and

26 Whereas, the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes  
27 Prevention Act would authorize the Department of Justice to assist state and  
28 local governments in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes and to assume  
29 jurisdiction over a hate crime if a state or locality requests it, if a state  
30 or locality is unable or unwilling to pursue the case or if the outcome of  
31 the case does not satisfy federal interest in eradicating hate crimes; and

32 Whereas, enacting the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes  
33 Prevention Act would strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies in  
34 Arizona to prosecute violent bias-motivated crimes; and

35 Whereas, the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes  
36 Prevention Act has received broad bipartisan support.

37 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

38 1. That the Congress and the President of the United States adopt the  
39 Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1592  
40 and S.1105) to enhance the ability of local law enforcement to prosecute  
41 crimes motivated by bias.

42 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
43 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the  
44 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
45 Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.