

# MAFO

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## Civil Rights Leaders Meet to Discuss Hate Crime with Senate Majority Leader



Washington, DC- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and civil rights leaders held a press conference in Washington to discuss the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Wade Henderson, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and Janet Murguia, President of the National Council of La Raza joined Senator Reid, as did representatives from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and other groups.

Senator Reid said "Hate crimes embody a unique brand of evil" and "that is why before we leave here in August, I am committed to holding a vote on this bill." Senator Kennedy has called hate crimes a form of domestic terrorism.

Henderson said "In an increasingly diverse America, there is no civil right more fundamental to American democracy than protecting individuals from acts of violence because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability." Murguia said "Given the often ugly debate surrounding the issue of immigration, it is not surprising that hate crimes targeting Latinos have risen 40% in the last few years" and "we commend Sen. Reid for his leadership on this most important issue."

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*MAFO does not necessarily agree, support nor condones the writer of this article(s) but wishes to share important information, news and views from our rural community.*