

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY

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 **FIGHTING** *for* **SECURITY** *at* **HOME** *and* **ABROAD**

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## The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

### **Hate groups are growing in the United States.**

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), 892 hate groups are currently operating in the United States, up 14 percent since 2014 and almost 33 percent since 2000. African Americans are disproportionately targeted, with 190 Ku Klux Klan groups operating around the country. Anti-Muslim groups are also growing, up 42 percent from 2014.

### **Extremists are using guns and becoming increasingly violent.**

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the percentage of hate crimes involving violence has increased from 78 percent in 2004 to 90 percent in 2012. Between 2010 and 2014, around 43,000 hate crimes were committed using firearms. An SPLC study found that 59 percent of domestic terror attacks between April 2009 and February 2015 involved a gun.

### **The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would keep guns away from dangerous extremists.**

Under current law, those with felony convictions are prohibited from buying or possessing a gun, but those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes are not. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would:

- *Define misdemeanor hate crime.* This category would include misdemeanors under Federal, State or tribal law that include the threat, use or attempted use of force and are found to be motivated at least in part by hate or bias against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
- *Keep firearms out of the hands of those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes.* It would prohibit the purchase, possession or shipment of a firearm by anyone convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime or who received a hate crime sentence enhancement, and prohibit the sale of firearms to anyone known to be convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime.

### **Hate crimes have a uniquely corrosive effect on society.**

Crimes targeting people for where they come from, how they worship or who they love deprive victims of their basic rights as human beings and as citizens of the United States. We must keep guns away from extremists who seek to poison our communities with fear and hate.