

**From:** [Communications](#)  
**To:** [Communications](#)  
**Subject:** Message from the SOCCCD Board of Trustees - COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 3:05 p.m.

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Greetings SOCCCD Students, Staff and Faculty:

The South Orange County Board of Trustees applauds and supports the bi-partisan passage of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which was signed into law on May 20, 2021 by President Biden.

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act echoes our sentiments in a resolution entitled, Denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Sentiment Arising Due to Fears of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Affirming SOCCCD's Commitment to the Well-being and Safety of Asian American Communities, passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees in May of 2020.

This federal law aims to make the reporting of hate crimes more accessible at the local and state levels, by boosting public outreach and ensuring reporting resources are available online in multiple languages. It also directs the Department of Justice to designate a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19 and authorizes grants to state and local governments to conduct crime-reduction programs to prevent and respond to hate crimes.

Most importantly, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act helps to address hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular emphasis on the increase in violence against Asian Americans.

As President Biden stated, "We have to change hearts; hate can be given no safe harbor."