

EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING
THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION
ON DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIMES

WHEREAS, discrimination and hate-motivated violence are crimes against both individuals and communities and cannot be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, in a free country, no person should have to live in fear because of how they look, what they believe or how they conduct their private lives; and

WHEREAS, the goal of a hate crime is not just to injure one person, but to send a message of intimidation to a whole group of people; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1990s, Illinois has had one of the nation's toughest hate crime statutes, addressing crimes such as aggravated battery, theft, criminal trespassing, disorderly conduct and telephone harassment committed because of the victim's race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation or disability; and

WHEREAS, no one is truly safe when hate and discrimination is tolerated;

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, order the following:

I. ESTABLISHMENT

There shall be established the Governor's Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. to help ensure that state and local governments, including law enforcement and the judicial system, respond swiftly and appropriately to incidents of discrimination and to hate crimes.
- B. to work in partnership with community leaders, educators, religious leaders, social service agencies, elected officials and the public to identify and uproot sources of discrimination and bias at the source.
- C. to help ensure that the state's laws addressing discrimination and hate-related violence are widely known and used correctly to help eradicate and prevent crimes based on discrimination and intolerance.

- D. to make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for statutory and programmatic changes necessary to eliminate discrimination and hate-based violence.
- E. to help implement recommendations by working with the Governor's agencies, the General Assembly, the business community and other organizations.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. the commission shall consist of a chairperson and at least 20 but not more than 40 additional members, all appointed by the Governor.
- B. members may include, but are not limited to, persons who are active in and knowledgeable about the following areas: law enforcement, the criminal and civil justice system, education, human services, business and industry, arts and culture, social services and religion.
- C. members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses.
- D. the Commission will be provided assistance and necessary staff support services by the Office of the Governor and the agencies of state government involved in the issues to be addressed by it.
- E. the Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 of each year.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This executive order Number 4 (1999) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.



GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor of Illinois

February 15, 1999