

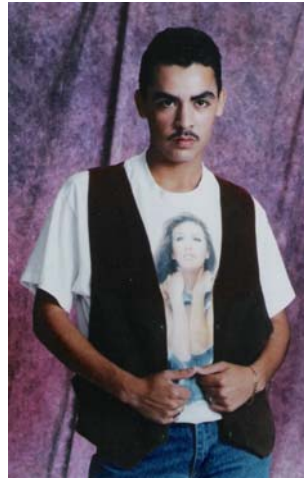
The Amancio Corrales Hate Crimes Act

Introduction

Americans recognize the need for hate crimes laws. It's an issue that has already been decided in 45 states, including Arizona, and at the federal level. **Arizona's existing hate crimes statute allows prosecutors to seek an enhanced sentence when it is clear a crime was motivated by bias.** This important tool helps law enforcement officials keep violent criminals off the streets and deter further acts of violence. However, **the statute contains a loophole that prevents prosecutors from seeking an enhanced sentence** when the victim of a crime is targeted because of their gender identity or expression. This omission sends the message that it is okay to target transgender people for violence. Closing this loophole will not only give law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute violent offenders, it will also convey the message that **targeted acts of violence against transgender people simply aren't okay.**

Americans support inclusive hate crimes laws

- A majority of **Arizonans support closing the loophole** in existing hate crimes statute by expanding the law to include gender identity or expression.¹
- **45 states have already enacted hate crimes statutes**, 12 of which have joined with the District of Columbia to include gender identity.²
- A 2007 national Hart Research poll showed that large majorities of every major subgroup of the electorate, including such traditionally conservative groups as **Republican men (56%) and evangelical Christians (63%) expressed support for strengthening hate crimes laws to include gender identity.**³
- The 2007 Hart Research poll also found that support crosses racial lines — with three in four whites (74%), African-Americans (74%) and Latino/as (72%) supporting such legislation.³
- A 2007 Gallup poll showed that 68 percent of Americans favored expanding hate crimes laws to include gender identity.³
- Some of the most important and respected law enforcement organizations in the nation have voiced their support to include gender identity in hate crimes law, including: the **International Association of Chiefs of Police**, the **National Sheriffs Association** and the **National District Attorneys Association.**³



The Amancio Corrales Act

The Amancio Corrales Act would **close a loophole in existing hate crimes statute**, granting law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute violent offenders who deliberately target their victims because of their gender identity or expression. **State law already grants prosecutors this important tool to keep violent offenders off the streets, though their hands are tied**

when the victim is targeted just for being transgender.

This bill is named after Amancio Corrales, a 23-year-old victim from Yuma who was killed while he was dressed as a woman. The 2005 murder was brutal. Amancio suffered from severe head trauma and multiple stab wounds. His body was thrown into the Colorado River where passers-by eventually noticed him. The case was eventually solved, though Arizona law at the time did not provide for an enhanced sentence for crimes committed out of malice towards a victim's gender identity or expression.

Existing statute is insufficient & suggests it is okay to target transgender people for violence

- Hate crimes laws are designed to send a message that it is wrong to target or intimidate a whole community. Excluding gender identity or expression from these laws sends the message that transgender people are legitimate targets for violence.
- It's horrible to live in fear. Fear of walking home at night. Fear of whether someone's waiting outside if you take the garbage out at night. Or fear of not hiding who you are well enough from the world. **People shouldn't have to live in fear of hate crimes.** But the people who commit them know: All it takes is one to make everyone afraid.
- The current exclusion of gender identity or expression from existing hate crimes statute limits the ability of law enforcement to use this important tool to keep dangerous criminals off the street.

1. Wright Consulting, Inc. (June 2008). Poll of 603 likely Arizona voters.

2. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. (2008). Issue Maps

3. Human Rights Campaign. (2008). www.hrc.org