



Hate Crimes Diminish Us All.

Respect for our neighbors, equal to that we hold for ourselves, is a founding American value. Hate, anti-Semitism and discrimination of any kind belong nowhere in Connecticut, nowhere in Ridgefield.

We are all diminished when anyone is denied civil rights, housing, employment, services, education, and safety based upon their race, gender, identity, religion or country of origin.

Bigotry and bias, considered to be hate crimes in Connecticut, deprive us of our basic humanity.

We have a moral obligation to fight hate crimes and bias wherever they appear and whatever the source.

True public servants take this obligation seriously. Public Act 17-111, enacted in October 2017, expanded Connecticut's existing hate crime laws to encompass a broader range of classes; it also enhanced penalties for hate crime offenses. It passed in the State Assembly with 146 votes 'yes' and zero 'no' votes – but five representatives, including our current State Representative, were absent and did not vote on this landmark legislation.

I will work in Ridgefield and across the state not only to continue to strengthen Connecticut's civil rights laws, but also to provide education, host forums, elevate the dialogue, and support initiatives that foster mutual understanding and respect among the state's diverse communities.