



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR ELEANOR SOBEL

31st District

August 15, 2012

The Honorable Rick Scott
400 S Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott,

In the wake of the recent and horrible religious-based killings in Wisconsin, I am asking you to use your executive authority to assemble a special task force. I would ask that this task force be brought together to provide a comprehensive review of current state law, policies and procedures related to the subject of tracking, understanding, and enforcing hate crimes and hate-crime related behavior.

With the rise in hate crimes across our nation and as Florida ranks 3rd in the number of active hate groups, you and I both know that many times, such tragedies simply cannot be prevented. However, I believe that we have an obligation to our citizens to ensure we are doing everything possible to prevent a similar tragedy from happening in our state.

To be clear, I am not calling for any legislative or executive action at this time except for us to thoughtfully and thoroughly examine where we are as a state. To my recollection, the last time such a study was undertaken, was in 1995. Surely it is time for us to refresh our knowledge and gain an updated understanding of current conditions.

I would recommend that appointees to such a task force include representative of your office, the State Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, the State Legislature, the Florida bar and perhaps representatives of private citizens groups who specialize in monitoring or preventing hate-based crimes.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Sobel".

Eleanor Sobel
State Senator, District 31

REPLY TO:

- The "Old" Library, First Floor, 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020 (954) 924-3693
- 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5097

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

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