



# LGBTQ Hate Crimes and Anti-LGBTQ Legislation

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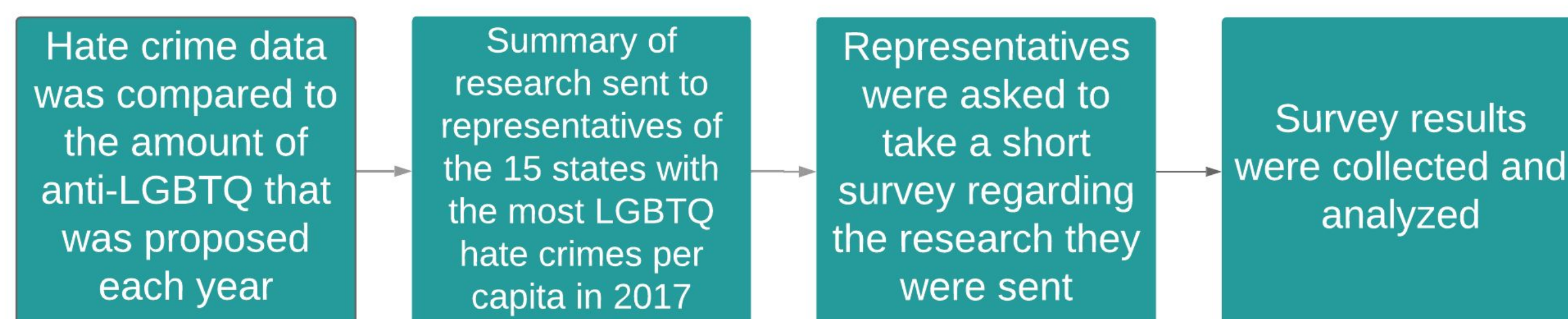
## INTRODUCTION



“What if you asked me: Hey, are you sad that fifty pedophiles were killed today? No, I think that’s great. I think that helps society...you know, the tragedy is that more of them didn’t die.” -Pastor Roger Jimenez when talking to his congregation about the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016

Over the past four years, LGBTQ hate crimes have been on the rise. Very little information exists on whether anti-LGBTQ legislation has an impact on the frequency and nature of hate crimes (Waters, Pham, Convery, Yacka-Bible, p.6).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



## CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

### Correlative Research

Positive correlations in Virginia and Mississippi show a possible relationship between hate crimes and anti-LGBTQ legislation. However, neither state proves causation or a nationwide correlation. Due to limited data, many states were inconclusive. Historical events such as the Japanese-American internment during WW2 has a proven connection between legislation and hate crimes.

### Action Research

Despite multiple requests, none of the representatives responded. Due to the lack of survey responses, it was not possible to gain insights on the opinions and plans of the representatives. The lack of responses outlines the difficulties constituents face when trying to drive change.



## DATA AND FINDINGS

### Pre-Existing Data

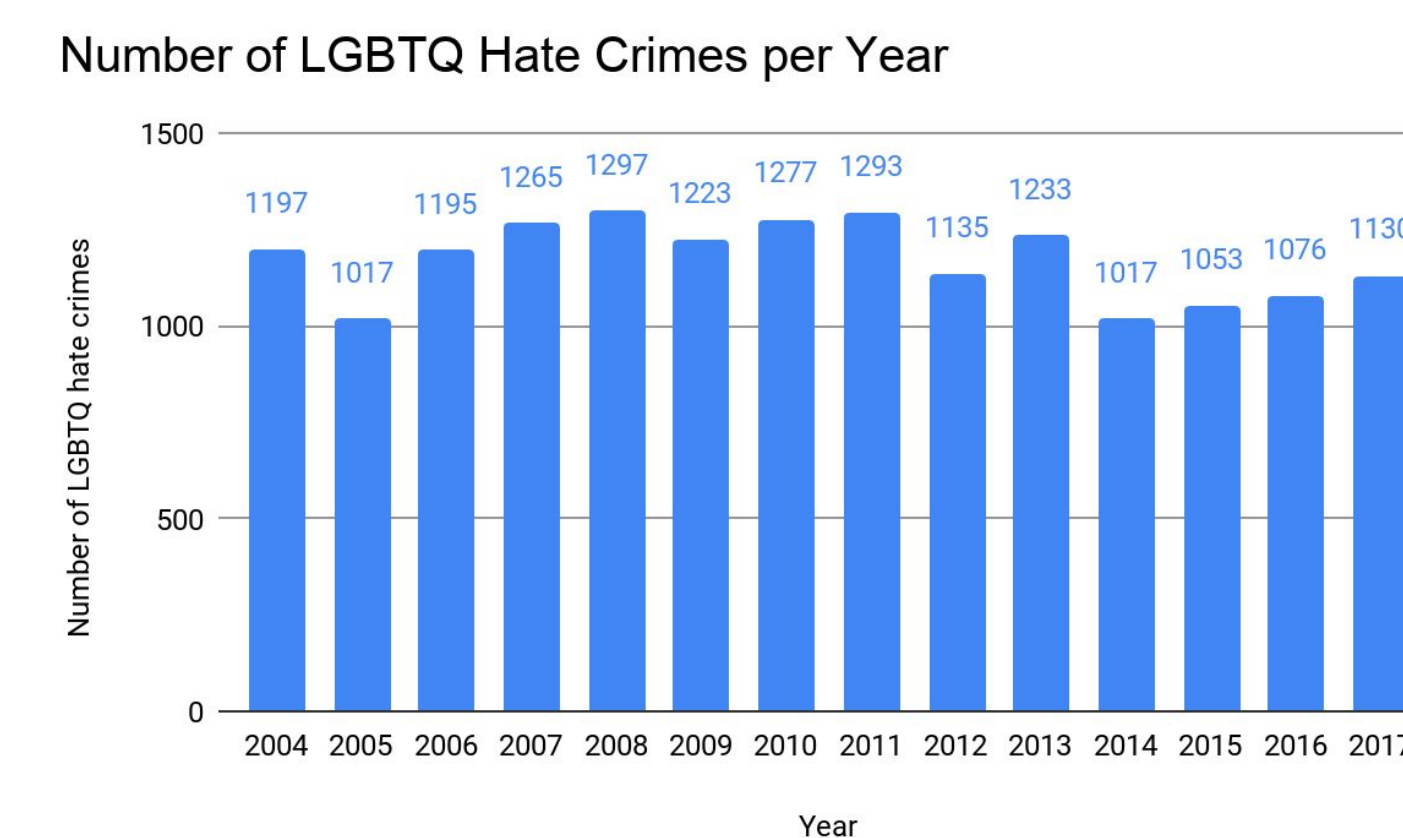


Figure 1: LGBTQ hate crimes recorded by the FBI from 2004-2017

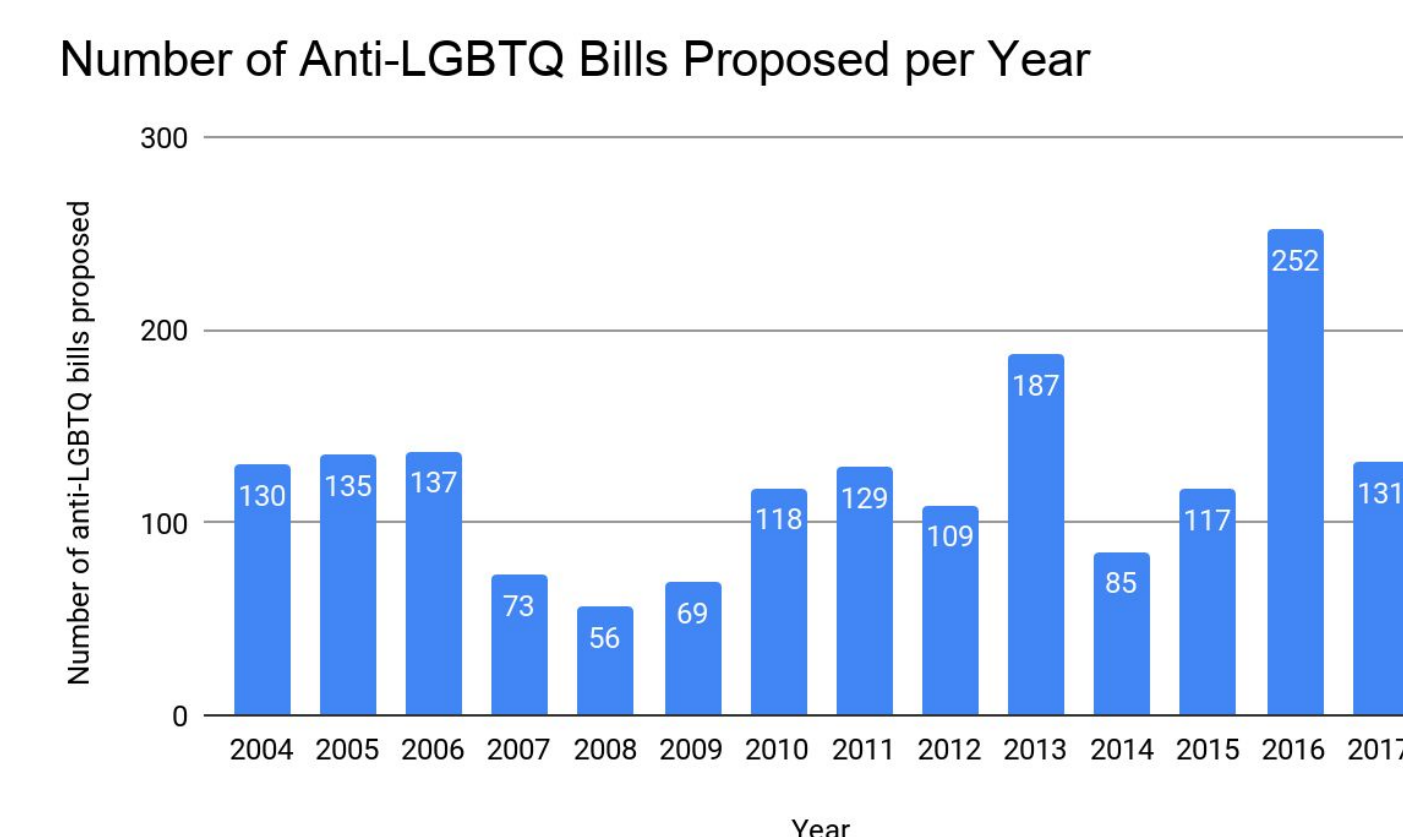


Figure 2: Number of anti-LGBTQ bills proposed in the U.S. each year from 2004-2017

- LGBTQ hate crimes: 15% of all hate crimes (FBI).
- 4.5% of the U.S. identifies as LGBTQ, meaning they are disproportionately targeted (Gallup).
- LGBTQ hate crimes resulting in a homicide increased 86% in 2017 from 2016 (Waters, Pham, Convery, Yacka-Bible, p.6).
- On average, 61% of hate crimes aren't reported to police (Matthew Shepard Foundation).
- In 2015, only 5% of an estimated 250,000 hate crimes were reported to the FBI (NAACP).
- Historical correlations exist between anti-Japanese legislation and hate crimes (Rapoport).
- Acceptance of the LGBTQ community has decreased 4% since 2016 (GLAAD).

### Findings

Hate Crimes vs. Anti-LGBTQ Bills in Mississippi 2004-2017

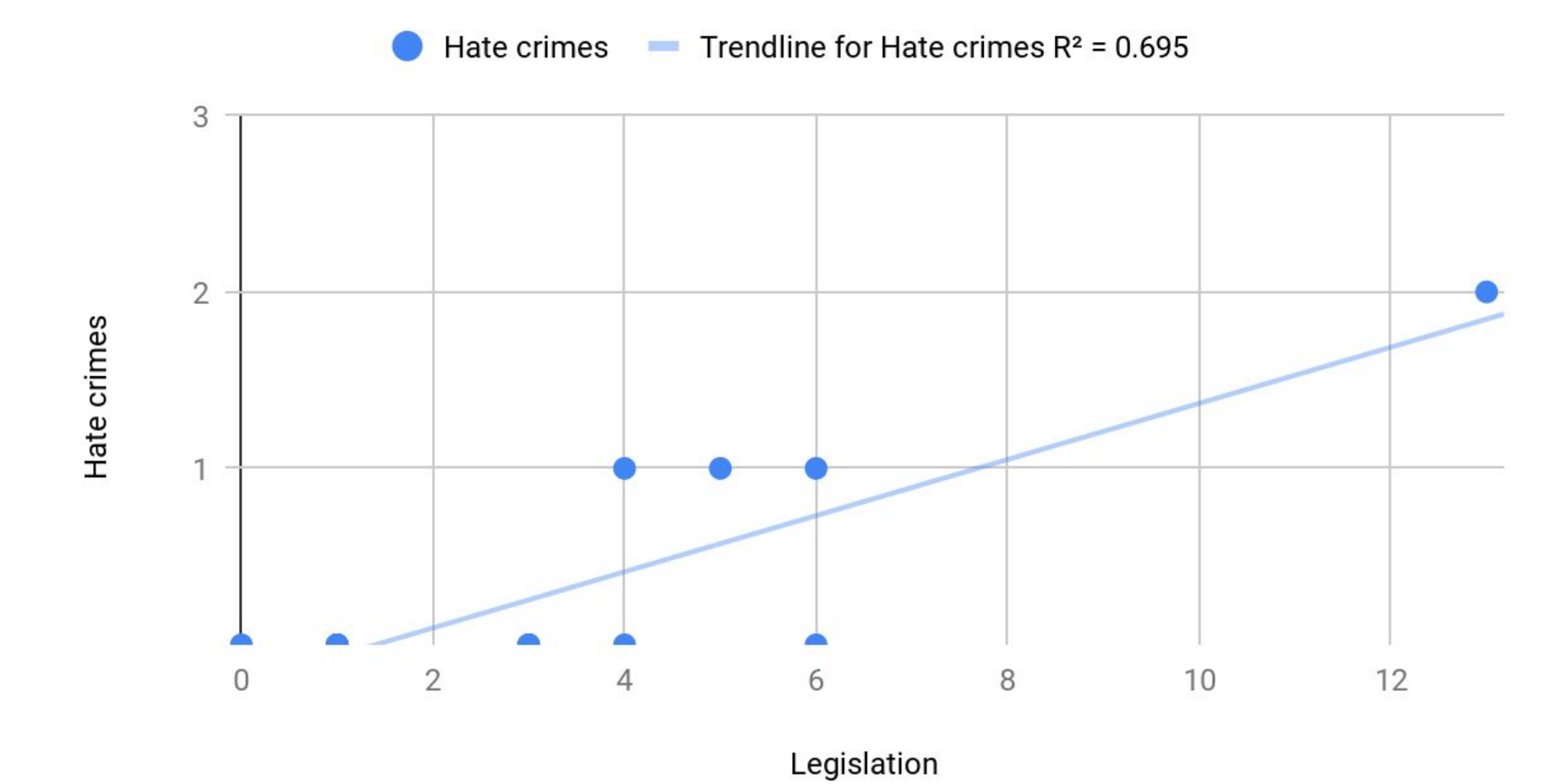


Figure 3: LGBTQ hate crimes were compared with anti-LGBTQ legislation proposed in each state from 2004 to 2017. A positive correlation was found in Mississippi.

Hate Crimes vs. Anti-LGBTQ Bills in Virginia 2004-2017

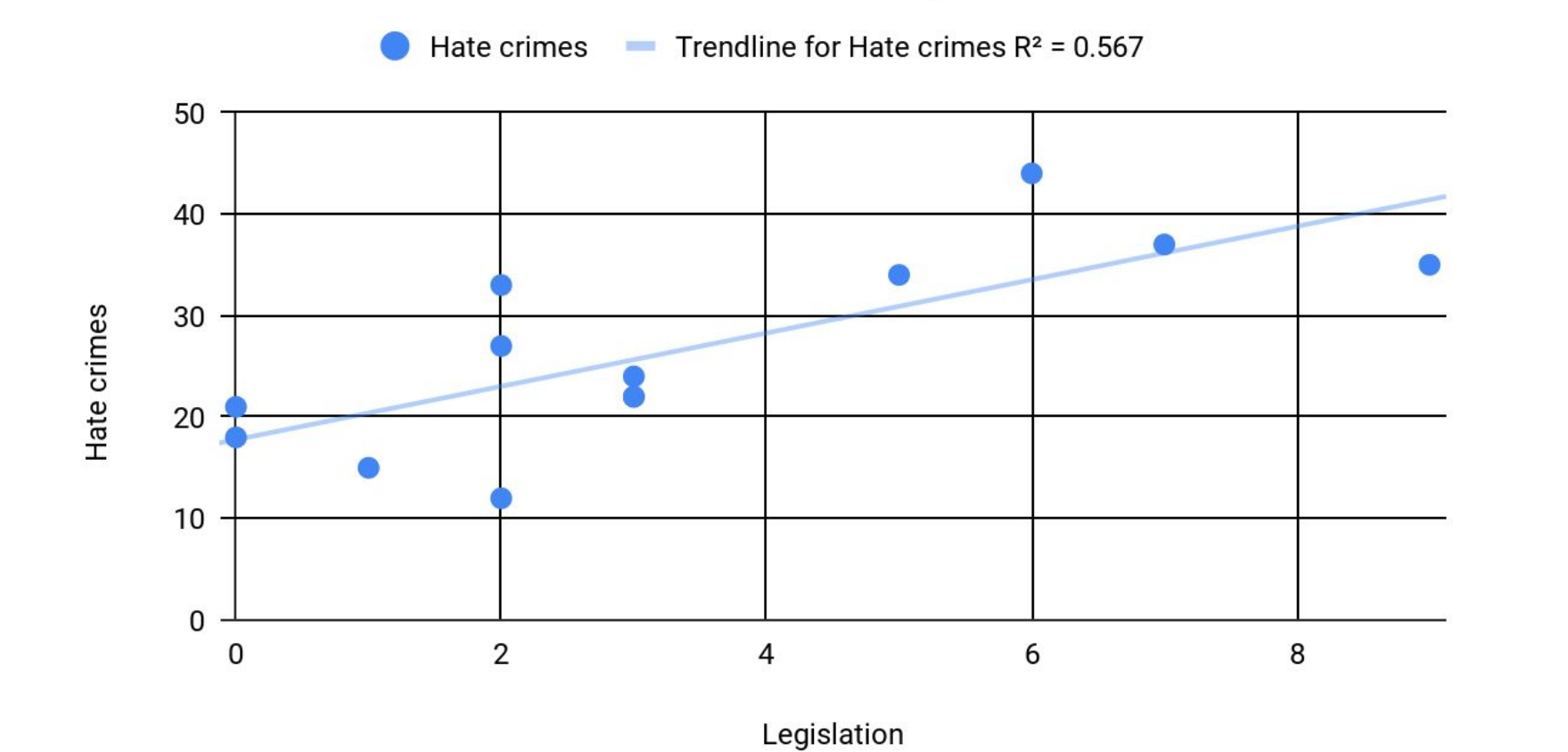


Figure 4: LGBTQ hate crimes vs. anti-LGBTQ legislation proposed the year before. A positive correlation was found in Virginia.

## IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This research was unable to establish a nation correlation between LGBTQ hate crimes and anti-LGBTQ legislation, but this may be a result of a lack of data. More research is warranted, and there is a clear call to action.

According to this research, actions should include:

- Increasing the levels of hate crime reporting.
- Providing police departments with proper training.
- Holding police departments accountable for providing complete and accurate information on hate crimes.
- Continuing research on the relationship between LGBTQ hate crimes and anti-LGBTQ legislation.

It is unclear what the opinions of the representatives are on this issue. It is important to know how politicians plan to address hate crimes.

If this research were continued, the next steps would be:

- Conduct more extensive follow-up to get survey responses and arrange interviews.
- Send more emails along with making phone calls and visiting representatives to gather more data.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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### \*\*\*Works Cited:

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