

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

SB21-280 Bias-motivated Crimes

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Timothy Lane For CDAC</p>	<p>The Colorado District Attorneys' Council, representing all 22 elected District Attorneys statewide, supports SB 280.</p> <p>SB 280 represents a necessary improvement to the Bias Motivated Crime statute.</p> <p>For most crimes, the prosecutors who represent the People of the State of Colorado are not required to prove motive, but rather just the requisite intent. Those who commit crimes are rarely upfront about their internal motivations, and prosecutors must rely on the circumstances surrounding the crime to explain their intent.</p> <p>However, in many bias motivated crimes, there can potentially be more than one motivation - one of which is based on animosity towards a person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation. A defendant should not avoid responsibility simply because they claim they had multiple motivations, in addition to their racism or bias.</p> <p>Thank you to the sponsors, Senator Fields and Cooke, for their leadership in making certain that those who commit crimes based on improper biases are held accountable.</p>