

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2013

Advisory Policy Board Members
U.S. Department of Justice
c/o R. Scott Trent
CJIS Designated Federal Officer
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Members of the Advisory Policy Board,

The American Sikh Congressional Caucus requests that the Advisory Policy Board recommend the inclusion of an anti-Sikh hate crime category on the Hate Crime Incident Report (Form 1-699).

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, many in the Sikh community have seen an increase in hate crimes and bias-based bullying because of their religion. According to Sikh Coalition surveys, approximately 10 percent of Sikhs in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area alone have experienced physical violence or property damage because of their religion. According to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, rates of bullying against Sikh children “range from roughly half to over three-quarters.” Recent Sikh Coalition research suggests that 67 percent of devout Sikh students in Fresno, California have experienced bias-based bullying because of their religion.

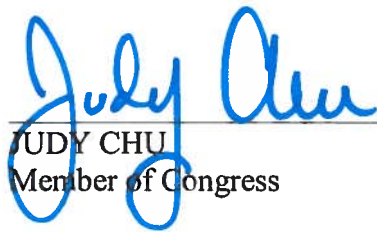
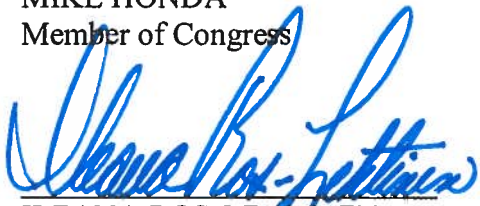
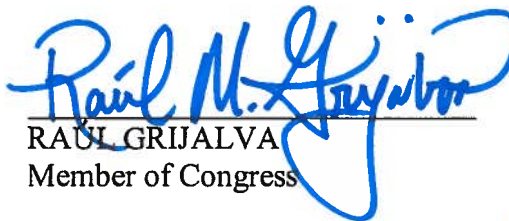
Several recent violent attacks on American Sikhs underscore the sad reality that American Sikhs remain acutely susceptible to bias-motivated violence. In 2012, six Sikh worshipers were killed in their Gurdwara (Sikh House of Worship) in Oak Creek, Wisconsin when a gunman with ties to hate groups opened fire inside. While this tragic event garnered a lot of media attention and public outrage, many more hate crimes committed against the Sikhs happen regularly with little media or public notice. In March 2011, two elderly Sikhs wearing traditional turbans were shot and killed on a street in Elk Grove, California. And this past week, Piara Singh, an elderly Sikh man, was attacked and beaten with an iron bar outside the Nanaksar Sikh Temple in Fresno, California.

American Sikhs experience bigotry at all ages, from school-yard bullying to horrific violence. Despite this, an anti-Sikh category has not been added to Form 1-699. Including an anti-Sikh category is an important step in confronting violent hate crimes and increasing public

awareness about these crimes. It will help law enforcement and the community to better understand and comprehensively address the dynamics of hate crimes against Sikhs in the United States.

The Sikh community has contributed a great deal to this country, and continues to be a shining example of immigrant communities pursuing the American Dream. As such, the American Sikh Congressional Caucus joins Rep. Joe Crowley and over 100 members of the House of Representatives in requesting that the Sikh community be afforded the same protections as other targeted groups, and that an anti-Sikh category be added to Form 1-699. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

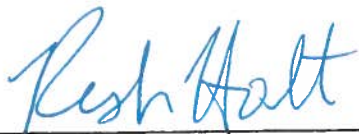

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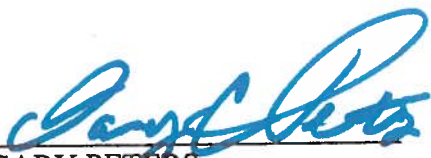
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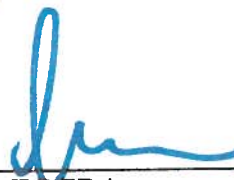
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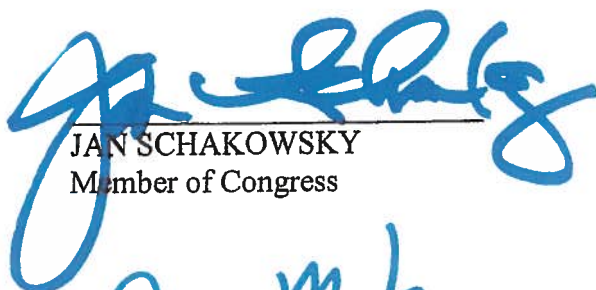
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