

To: American Sikh Committee to Evaluate Congressional Candidates

From: Congressman Jerry McNerney, CA-9

Election cycle: 2014

Submission date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Q. Do you support the proposed federal End Racial Profiling Act?

A. Yes. I support efforts to eliminate racial profiling.

Q. Do you support adding a prohibition on profiling on the basis of religion to the United States Justice Department Guidance on Racial Profiling? -

A. Yes. I have sent numerous letters to the Department of Justice on this matter.

Q. Do you support the proposed Federal Safe Schools Improvement Act?

A. I oppose bullying, especially on the basis of race. I have twice co-sponsored the Safe Schools Improvement Act and have hosted several anti-bullying events in my district.

Q. Do you support a change in United States military policy so that Sikhs would have an opportunity to serve our military while maintaining their turbans and uncut hair without requiring them to seek special, hard to obtain, revocable accommodations in order to do so?

A. I believe that we should not discriminate against individuals who wish to serve in our armed forces and defend our nation. I sent a letter to the Department of Defense requesting that it review current uniform code policies so that Sikhs are not discriminated against based on their religion.

Q. Will you encourage law enforcement agencies in your Congressional district to allow Sikhs to serve as police officers without removing their religiously-mandated turbans and uncut hair?

A. I support efforts to allow Sikhs to serve as first responders.

Q. Do you agree that thousands of Sikhs were murdered in India in November 1984 with the assistance of or lack of intervention by political parties, law enforcement, military or members of the government?

A. Yes. The events of 1984 are tragic. As an international community, we must ensure that these types of terrible acts do not happen again.

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Q. Would you, as a Member of Congress, seek to remember and acknowledge the pogroms against Sikhs in November 1984, pursue justice for the victims, and work to ensure it does not happen again?

A. I will carefully review any proposal on the House floor to address the events of November 1984.

Have you ever worked with, employed or been hired by a Sikh? If so, describe this experience.

A. I am honored to have attended a number of Sikh community events in my district throughout the years and gotten the chance to know many of my Sikh constituents both professionally and personally. I am also proud that my staff represents the diversity of our region.

Q. Have you ever visited a Gurdwara (Sikh house of worship)?

A. Yes; in fact, my district is home to the oldest Gurdwara in the Nation.

Q. Do you encourage Sikhs to apply for opportunities with your government office or campaign office, including internships through the SikhLEAD Internship program? If so, please describe the process by which one may seek employment or internships with these offices, including the name, address and telephone number of the person with hiring responsibility.

A. I encourage anyone in my district who is dedicated to serving our community to apply for opportunities in my office. They can do so by calling or visiting one of my offices, or visiting my website.