



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0400 F 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

October 2, 2008

Baljit Singh Sidhu, M.D.
President
North American Sikh Medical & Dental Association
13225 Rivers Bend Boulevard
Chester, VA 23836

Dear Dr. Sidhu,

This responds to your letter of September 8, 2008. I appreciate your willingness to continue the dialogue until a mutually satisfactory resolution of this issue has been achieved.

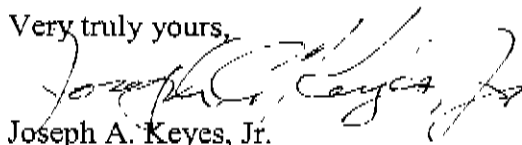
We understand that treatment of religious turbans as an exceptional form of outerwear remains unacceptable to you. On further consideration, AAMC has been persuaded that, on balance, many of your concerns are well founded and that the integrity of the examination can be protected by less intrusive means. Accordingly, MCAT policy has been modified.

Test center administrators will be directed as follows:

- Head Coverings worn for religious or cultural purposes, including hats, turbans, scarves, yarmulkes and even baseball caps that are worn for religious or cultural purposes are allowed in the testing room.
- Visually inspect (but do not touch) head coverings for hidden wires, notes, or any item that might be used during the exam.
- Do not ask the examinee to remove the head covering.

It is my sense that this approach fully resolves the issue. I would appreciate a response from you confirming that this is the case.

Very truly yours,


Joseph A. Keyes, Jr.
Chief Legal Officer
AAMC