



Calling Your United States Senators to Ask Them to Sign-On to Senator Durbin's Letter on the New TSA Headwear Search Policy

How Do I Find My Senator's Phone Number?

- Go to: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm and find state in which you currently reside in the "Choose a State" dropdown list at the top of the page.

Items to Keep in Mind *Before* You Call

- **Your Goal:** To ask both of your United States Senators to sign-on to a letter from Senator Richard Durbin to the TSA expressing concern about the TSA policy that went into effect on August 4, 2007.
- **For Background Information on the Durbin Letter:** see <http://www.sikhcoalition.org/advisories/TSASenateLetter.htm>.
- Please call only your United States Senator (not your Representative in the House of Representatives) because you are asking your Senator to sign-on to a letter from Senator Durbin.

When You Call and Introduce Yourself

- Introduce yourself. Say your name and **that you are a constituent**.
- Say you are calling because you would like your Senator to "Sign-on to a letter being circulated by Senator Durbin on an issue of religious freedom."
- Ask to speak to the appropriate staff member in your Senator's office.

When You Speak About the Issue

- Be polite.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Say again that you want your Senator to "Sign-on to a letter being circulated by Senator Durbin on an issue of religious freedom."
- Explain that the Transportation Security Administration has issued new headwear airport search guidelines that impact members of the Sikh religion because they automatically allow TSA screeners to touch and search Sikh religious headdress regardless of whether a metal detector beeps at a screening checkpoint.
- Say that Senator Durbin is circulating a letter on the issue that asks the TSA to explain its rationale for allowing its new policy allowing its screeners to search religious headdress.
- Finally ask that they contact Senator Durbin's office for a copy of the letter and urge your Senator to sign on it.