

October 30, 2023

Congressman Shri Thanedar
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thanendar:

As representatives of 10 gurdwaras throughout the state of Michigan, we write to you to share our concerns on the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain Congressional Caucus that you announced in September.

It has been called to our attention that your office did not consult with any Sikhs—not gurdwara committees, organizations, nor individuals—before forming a caucus that claims to advocate for us and speak on the issues that we care about. This is of great concern to us, given our community’s history of being pushed to the side and not given a voice here in the United States, back in India, and around the world.

We also understand that you previously announced plans to found a “Hindu caucus,” but have since claimed that this new caucus is meant to be a more inclusive version of that group. Yet if no Sikhs (or Buddhists or Jains) were consulted in your decision, we ask: How exactly is this group “inclusive” other than the name you have given it?

Finally, we are aware that the Sikh community already has not only a preexisting caucus, but also multiple civil rights organizations conducting advocacy work in our nation’s capital. We are concerned that the creation of yet another organization will lead to more confusion rather than more representation.

We take seriously the matter of our representation in the halls of Congress. As a result of this—and our concerns above—we respectfully urge you to remove the “Sikh” label from this caucus given that it does not represent our community, our voices, or our interests.

Respectfully,

Sikh Society of West Michigan
Ada, MI

Sikh Religious Society of Southwest Michigan
Benton Harbor, MI

Downriver Sikh Temple
Brownstown Charter Township, MI

Singh Sabha of Michigan

Canton, MI

Singh Sabha of Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids, MI

Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Kalamazoo,

Kalamazoo, MI

Guru Nanak Singh Center

Lansing, MI

Sikh Gurdwara of Rochester Hills

Rochester Hills, MI

Mid Michigan Singh Sabha

Saginaw, MI

Sikh Society of Michigan

Sterling Heights, MI