

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express grave concern about the increasingly open racial and xenophobic hostility directed at South Asian Americans, particularly Sikh Americans, and about the ways federal rhetoric surrounding immigration and visa policy can reinforce the idea that these communities are suspect, disposable, or less American. South Asians are increasingly cast as economic interlopers, immigration cheats, people unwilling to assimilate, or simply people who do not belong here. Against that backdrop, it was appalling to see an agency of the United States government turn a man called “Mr. Singh” into a racialized movie villain to be driven from the country.

The Department of Homeland Security post, which has since been removed, depicted a brown, bearded man identified as “Mr. Singh,” told him to “get off our roads,” and warned him to “self-deport or find out.”¹ “Singh” is not an arbitrary fictional name. It is intimately associated with Sikh identity. Using that name to embody the dangerous, incompetent foreigner was not incidental; it was degrading. More disturbing still was how readily the image fit into a broader atmosphere in which South Asian immigrants, and South Asian Americans regardless of immigration status, are increasingly treated as a problem.

The posts were also promoting DHS’s new ICE tipline, formally described in the agency’s press release as a mechanism for reporting suspected commercial driver’s license (CDL) fraud. Yet the social-media messaging recast it far more broadly, urging the public to report “illegal aliens on American roads.” That shift matters. In the context of imagery singling out “Mr. Singh,” it invites the public to treat perceived ethnicity, religion, or foreignness—not evidence of fraud or unsafe driving—as grounds for suspicion. A tipline marketed in these terms creates an obvious risk of expansive, race-based profiling of Sikh, South Asian, immigrant, and other nonwhite drivers, including U.S. citizens.

The evidence of that hostility is substantial. Stop AAPI Hate reported that anti-South Asian slurs in the online spaces it monitored increased 109 percent between January 2023 and December 2025. Seventy-one percent of all anti-Asian online threats of violence identified between August 2024 and December 2025 were directed at South Asians, making them the most frequently threatened Asian regional group in those spaces. In a nationally representative survey, 48 percent of South Asian adults said they experienced a hate act because of their race, ethnicity, or nationality in 2025, while 55 percent said they or another Asian American or Pacific Islander in their community had been affected by changing immigration policies or anti-immigrant sentiment.² These figures give statistical form to what many of our constituents are already experiencing: a growing willingness to treat ancestry, religion, or immigration status as grounds for suspicion and contempt.

For Sikh Americans, this climate carries an additional weight. Sikh identity is often immediately visible through articles of faith such as the turban and unshorn hair, and Sikh Americans have repeatedly faced harassment,

¹ *The Indian Express*, “[“Can’t drive, Mr Singh”: US Department of Homeland Security poster sparks racism row](#),” Sept. 10, 2026.

² Stop AAPI Hate, [The State of Anti-South Asian Hate](#), Sept. 2026.

discrimination, and violence from people who perceive them as foreign or threatening.³ When the federal government itself uses a recognizably Sikh identity as shorthand for someone dangerous, incompetent, and unwanted, it reinforces associations that have already had real consequences for Sikh Americans.

Recent events in Frisco, Texas, also show how quickly hostility can move from arguments about immigration policy to attacks on people themselves. Speakers at City Council meetings have invoked an “Indian takeover,” “invaders,” “anchor babies,” and allegations of H-1B fraud while directing racist hostility toward Indian residents, including a U.S. citizen and Navy veteran serving on the City Council.⁴ Anti-Indian sentiment became part of the city’s political life, with one mayoral candidate referring to South Asian immigrants as “rats.”⁵ In June, a demonstrator outside Frisco City Hall tore an Indian flag amid anti-India rhetoric during an immigration-related protest, prompting condemnation from Indian American members of Congress.⁶ Elsewhere in North Texas, South Asian Americans have reported racist abuse explicitly intertwined with accusations about H-1B visas, immigration fraud, and the supposed displacement of American workers.⁷

The policy context matters. Indian nationals account for nearly 70 percent of H-1B visa holders and face especially long employment-based green-card backlogs, leaving many who have lived and worked legally in the United States in prolonged uncertainty.⁸ At the same time, your Administration has pursued substantially higher H-1B fees and additional restrictions, including a DHS proposal for an additional \$103,265 fee for each cap-subject petition.⁹ Against that backdrop, the Administration has too often cast these South Asian workers as economic threats, a portrayal that is both demeaning and inconsistent with evidence that H-1B immigration can raise incomes for U.S.-born workers and support startup investment, innovation, and growth.

The false image of the H-1B worker as someone who simply takes a job from an American worker obscures a much larger economic reality. High-skilled immigrants help create businesses, strengthen American firms, increase investment, raise productivity, support innovation, and keep valuable work in the United States. Reducing them to an economic threat turns a complex labor and immigration system into a story with a foreign villain, and that story increasingly falls on Indian and South Asian communities.

Many of the people caught in this debate have followed the legal immigration system exactly as the United States required. They attended American universities, joined American companies, staffed hospitals and laboratories, started businesses, paid taxes, bought homes, and raised children here. Some have spent years or decades waiting for permanent residency. The difficulty or dysfunction of the immigration system should not be converted into resentment toward the immigrants required to navigate it.

We urge you to direct your agencies, particularly DHS, to publicly acknowledge the harm caused by this post; establish and enforce standards prohibiting agency communications that traffic in racial, ethnic, religious, or national-origin

³ Sikh Coalition, “[Hate Crime](#),” resources concerning hate crimes and bias affecting Sikh Americans.

⁴ Eleanor Klibanoff, “[Texas Republicans spent years courting Indian voters. Then came talk of the ‘Indian takeover’](#),” *The Texas Tribune*, republished by KERA, May 12, 2026.

⁵ KERA, “[How ‘outside agitators’ have spurred the rise of anti-Indian rhetoric in Frisco](#),” July 13, 2026.

⁶ Reps. Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Shri Thanedar, and Suhas Subramanyam, “[Joint Statement Condemning Anti-India Demonstration Outside Frisco City Hall](#),” June 15, 2026.

⁷ Marcheta Fornoff, “[Anti-Indian sentiment in North Texas spills into the dance community](#),” KERA, July 23, 2026.

⁸ Hannah Grabenstein, “[Trump says skilled foreign workers take jobs away from Americans. It’s not that simple, experts say](#),” PBS NewsHour, Sept. 4, 2026, citing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services FY2025 data.; National Foundation for American Policy, [Employment-Based Immigration Backlogs and Waiting Times](#).

⁹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “[Fee for Certain H-1B Petitions](#),” proposed rule, Aug. 2026.

stereotypes; and make clear that enforcement of immigration law must never be used to stigmatize South Asian communities.

South Asian Americans are not abstractions in an immigration debate, nor are they convenient symbols of foreignness. They belong in the communities they have helped build. For millions, this is their country and their home. There should be no room for such hate in our country.

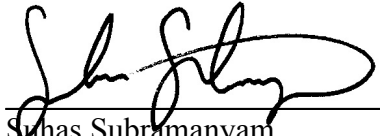
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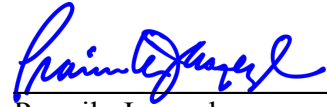
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
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