

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2013

Advisory Policy Board Members
U.S. Department of Justice
c/o R. Scott Trent
CJIS Designated Federal Officer
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Members of the Advisory Policy Board:

We would like to respectfully express our strong support for adding three new categories to the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) data collection mandate -- anti-Sikh, anti-Hindu and anti-Arab hate crimes. Unfortunately, there is a specific, demonstrated need for hate crime data for each of these three categories.

We are in favor of such a move in part because many Congressional offices have heard from constituents and leaders in the Sikh, Hindu and Arab-American communities about their ongoing fear of being the victim of a hate crime. This fear is a result of demonstrable and specific violent threats and attacks. For example, a man attempted to firebomb a Hindu Temple in New York on New Year's Day, 2012. In December 2012, a Hindu man whose attacker said she hated Hindus and Muslims was shoved in front of an oncoming subway train, resulting in his death. Even before the horrific massacre at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in August 2012 that took the lives of six worshippers, two Sikh men in Sacramento were killed and another in New York was brutally attacked.

We are also deeply concerned about this issue because attacks and threats against Sikhs, Hindus and Arabs appear to be aimed in part at our nation's youth. For instance, in one major urban area, a shocking three out of four turbaned Sikh boys reported being harassed and bullied in schools because of their appearance and Sikh identity.

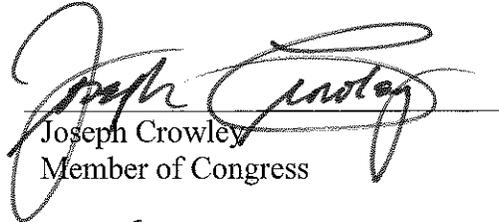
We understand that, at present, the FBI does not collect specific information about these categories of hate violence, which may at times be recorded as anti-Muslim bias motivation. However, evidence suggests that all too many crimes are committed against these groups because of their religious or national identity, and not because they are confused with Muslims.

Given the scale of the problem and that these discrete communities are so acutely susceptible to hate violence in the United States, we urge the Advisory Board to support adding these three categories to the existing HCSA data collection mandate for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. We also believe that doing so will encourage affected community

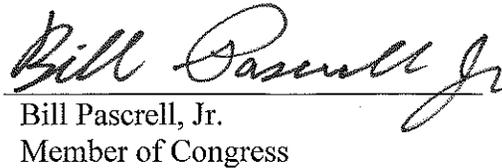
members to report hate crimes to law enforcement officials and strengthen relationships between communities, local and state law enforcement, the FBI and the Department of Justice.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues.

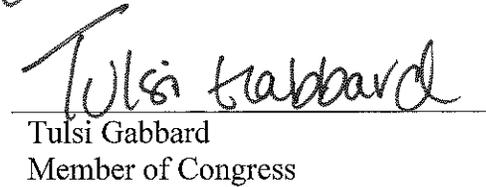
Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



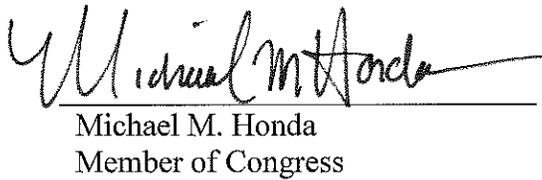
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



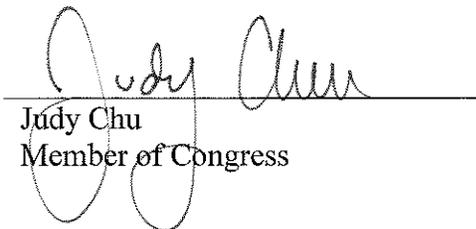
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



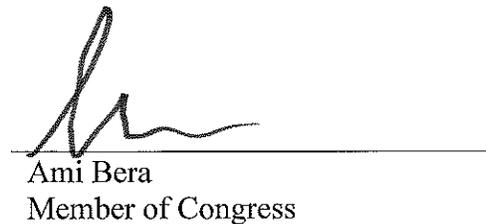
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



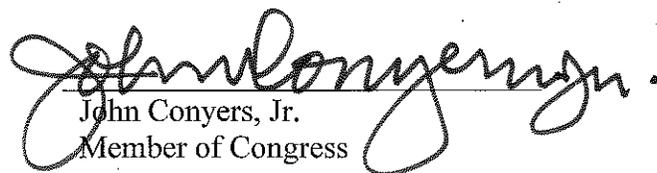
Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



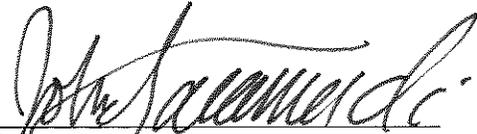
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



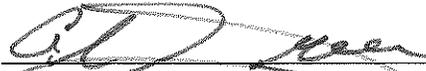
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr
Member of Congress



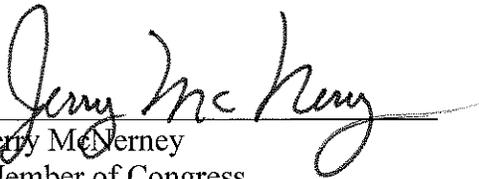
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



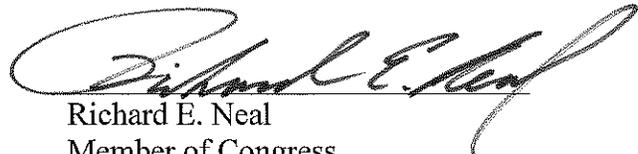
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Jerry McInerney
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



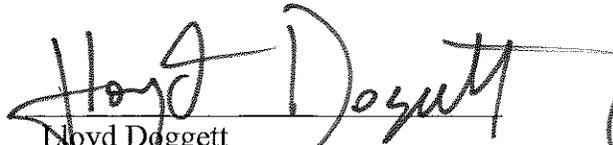
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

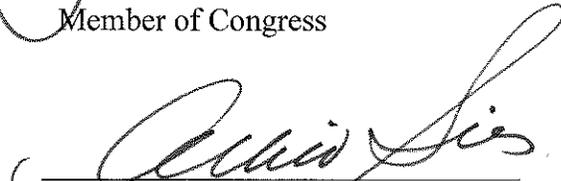


Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

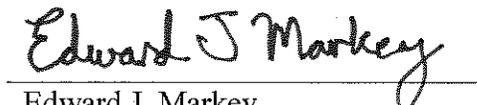

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

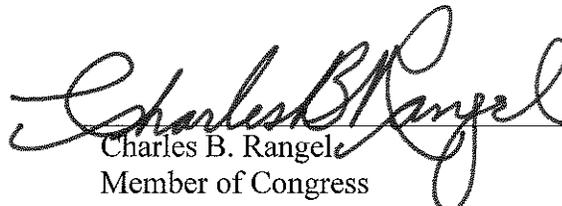

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

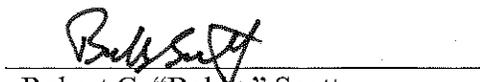

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

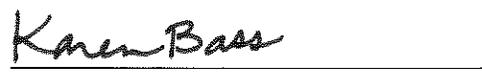

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay,
Member of Congress

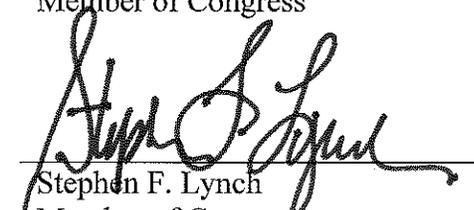

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

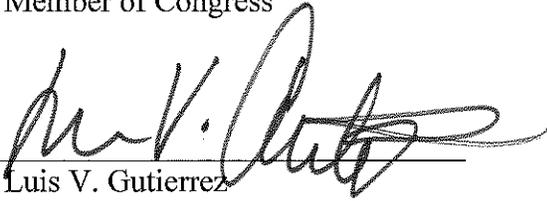

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



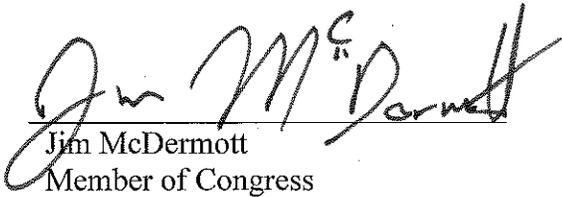
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



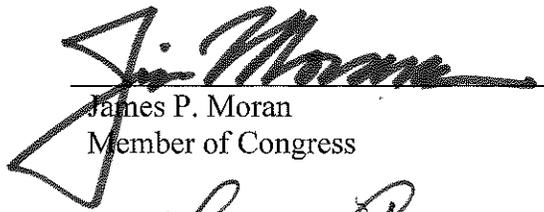
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



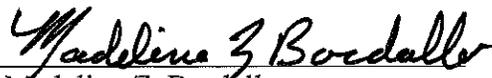
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



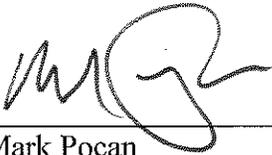
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



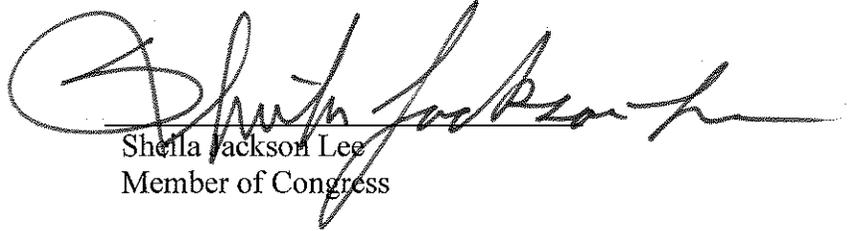
Madeline Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



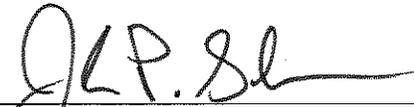
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



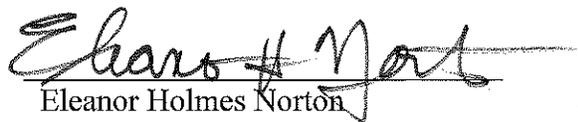
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



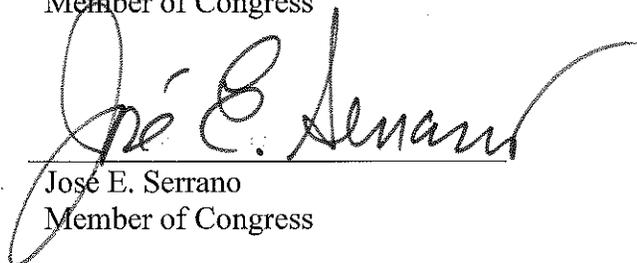
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



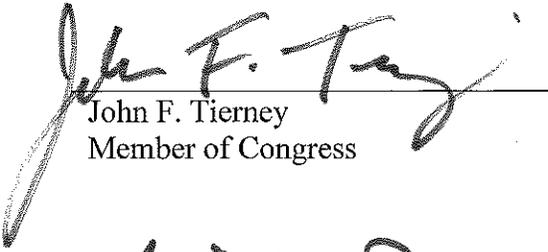
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



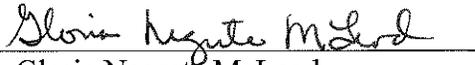
David E. Price
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



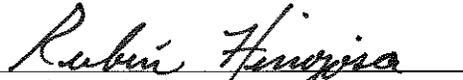
Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



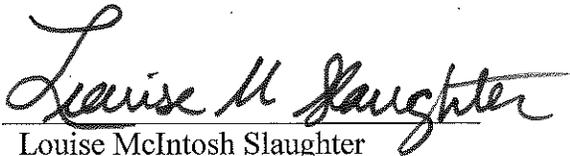
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



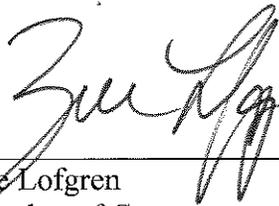
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



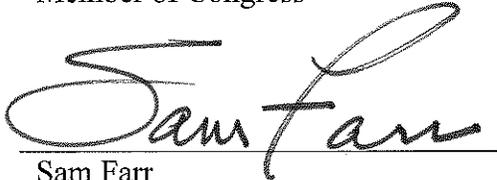
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



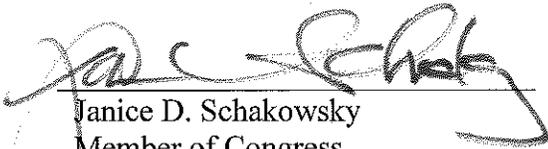
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



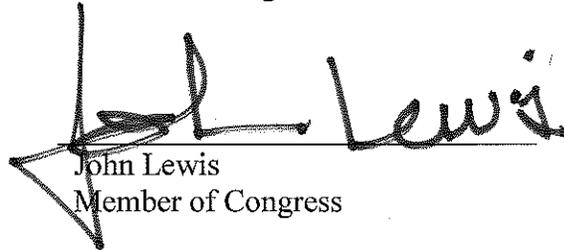
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



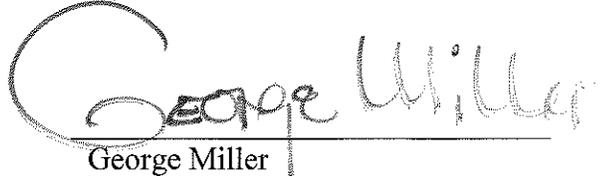
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



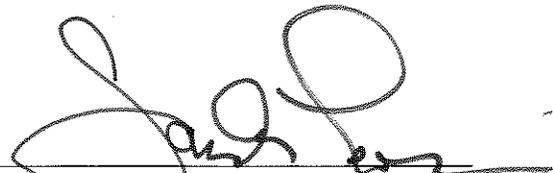
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



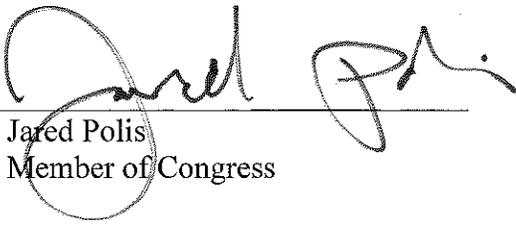
George Miller
Member of Congress



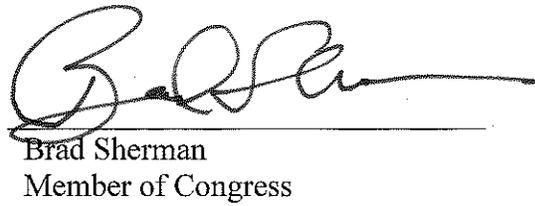
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



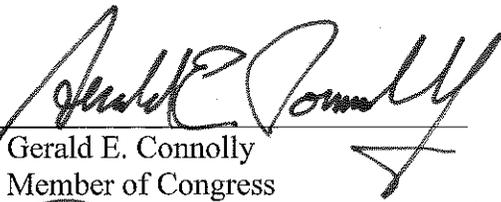
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



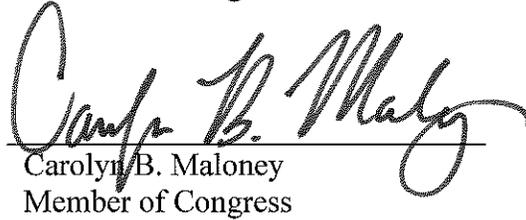
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



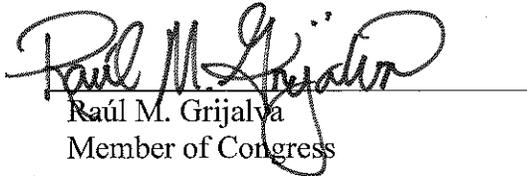
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



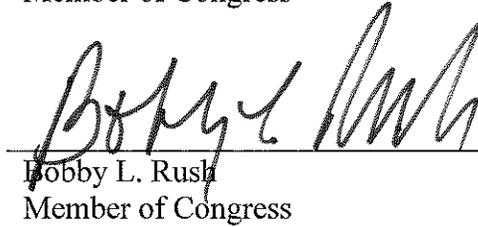
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



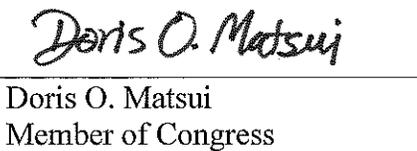
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



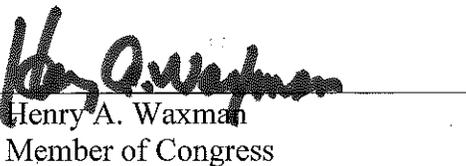
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



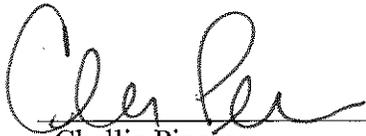
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



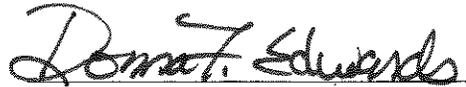
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



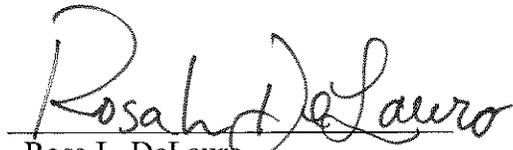
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress