



February 20, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Harmeet Kaur Dhillon as Assistant Attorney General of the United States for Civil Rights

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We, the signatories below, are Sikh American community leaders representing Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) and civil rights organizations across the United States writing to voice our strongest support for one among us, Harmeet Kaur Dhillon, to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Many Americans know Ms. Dhillon for her decades of work advocating for civil rights. Others know her as a political leader and media commentator.

Ms. Dhillon, active in religious freedom cases — including victories at the U.S. Supreme Court — is especially important as a leader of the Sikh American community. Since she graduated from law school, Harmeet has performed volunteer legal work for several Sikh community organizations, ranging from incorporation assistance to landmark civil rights litigation. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our nation, Harmeet worked for the safety of our community through legal advocacy as well as educational and public relations work to explain our faith to America at a time when Sikhs were being shot, harassed, threatened, fired, and otherwise singled out during a backlash against many Americans wrongly identified as terrorists. In line with her work to fight against



discrimination of Sikhs and other groups, Ms. Dhillon at that time served as a board member of the Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, where she worked to protect Sikhs and others from the life-threatening backlash so many experienced in that perilous time in our nation's history.

In more recent years, as a pro bono religious freedom attorney, Ms. Dhillon won a settlement in the case of Trilochan Singh Oberoi, a Sikh applicant to be a California prison guard, who passed all pre-employment criteria, but who was denied the position because he refused to shave his beard because of tenets of Sikhism, even as the prison department allowed men exceptions from the no-beards rule as a medical accommodation. She pursued this challenging pro bono case for four years, after winning at the administrative level and then seeing the state Attorney General appeal that decision through the trial courts. Over the years, Harmeet's advocacy has led her to challenge many private employers as well, ranging from airlines to courier companies that discriminated against Sikhs on the basis of their religion. Most recently, in this past year, her firm's advocacy has resulted in multiple young Sikhs being able to serve as law enforcement officers in California.

Our community watches with respect for Ms. Dhillon's intellect and legal acumen, as she has supported fundamental freedoms guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and challenged policies curtailing those freedoms. Senators, we know you are familiar with many of these cases, and as both Republicans and Democrats, we are pleased with her successes in working on cases and with teams across the political spectrum. Without regard to political orientation, in her three decades of legal work she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to freedom of religion for all faiths in the U.S., and is expected to demonstrate that commitment if confirmed to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Dhillon understands politics as well. The Sikh American community is especially honored that both in 2016 and 2024, Ms. Dhillon represented our faith by offering Sikh prayers at Republican National Conventions. She has served as the Republican National Committeewoman from California, and in 2008, ran for the California Assembly as the first Sikh to run for state legislative office as a major party nominee. Cable news, podcast, and traditional media audiences know Ms. Dhillon as a regular and thoughtful commentator on various national issues.



Ms. Dhillon, born in Punjab, raised in rural North Carolina, and founding her national law practice in California, has a background similar to many in our community, but her outstanding ability matches her advocacy for the U.S. Constitution with her political but bipartisan approach, is unique.

For the reasons outlined above, we wholeheartedly support Ms. Dhillon's confirmation as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and we respectfully request your vote to refer her nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.

With gratitude for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Gurdev Singh,
Acting President
American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee
for Gurdwaras across the United States

Pritpal Singh
Founder
American Sikh Caucus Committee

Devinder Kaur
Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina
3214 E, Banner St, Durham, NC 27704

Arvind Singh
Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji
48055 Michigan Avenue
Canton, MI 48188

Rana Singh
President
Gurdwara Shri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji
1050 S Graham Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143

Rajbhinder Singh Badesha
Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar.
1240 Old York road. Burlington NJ 08016

Naunihal S Brar



Sikh Temple Riverside
7940 Mission Blvd, Riverside, CA. 92509

Randhir Singh Nijjar
Sacramento Sikh Society,
7676 Bradshaw Rd, Sacramento, CA 95829

Jaspreet Singh Atwal
Gurdwara Sahib Fremont
300 Gurdwara Road,
Fremont CA 94539

Balbir Singh Dhillon
Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha
362 S Milpitas Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035

Kulwant Singh
Sikh Gurdwara Sahib San Francisco
2400 Rosewood Dr, San Bruno, CA 94066

Dalbir Singh Sandhar
Gurdwara Gur Nanak Parkash Fresno Inc
4250 E Lincoln Ave Fresno, CA 93722

Himmat Singh,
Coordinator
Sikh Coordination Committee East Coast

Manwinder Singh,
Advocacy Director
United Sikhs

Naindeep Singh
Director
Jakara Movement

Amanpreet Oberoi
President
Erie APAA Commission

Thomas Singh
Philadelphia Sikh Community

Inder Bain
Delaware County Sikh Community