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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Attorney General to establish a task force on anti-Sikh hate
and discrimination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOTTHEIMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to establish a task force
on anti-Sikh hate and discrimination.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE ON**
4 **ANTI-SIKH HATE AND DISCRIMINATION.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Sikhi is a monotheistic, pragmatic, inde-
7 pendent and sovereign world religion that was
8 founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century in the
9 Punjab region.

(3) Anti-Sikh hate and discrimination refers to any act, practice, policy, or conduct that denies, restricts, or infringes upon the rights of individuals based on their actual or perceived Sikh faith, identity, ancestry, or expression. This includes incidents or crimes targeting Sikhs, individuals perceived to be Sikh, Gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship), Sikh organizations, and property. It encompasses various forms of violence, threats, and harassment that are primarily motivated by religious or racial hostility, bigotry, hatred, or prejudice against Sikhs.

22 (4) Sikhs have experienced bias-based violence,
23 since their arrival in this country more than a cen-
24 tury ago. From the 1907 Bellingham Riots to the
25 surge in hate crimes following the September 11th

1 attacks, Sikhs have experienced targeted violence in
2 the United States for generations. While some in-
3 stances of anti-Sikh violence have been linked to
4 mistaken identity, there are several documented
5 cases where Sikhs have been specifically targeted
6 due to their faith or other aspects of their identities.

7 (5) One of the most violent manifestations of
8 anti-Sikh hate and discrimination in the United
9 States occurred on August 5, 2012, when a white
10 supremacist gunman with neo-Nazi ties carried out
11 a mass shooting at a Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wis-
12 consin, killing six worshippers and injuring others; a
13 seventh victim later died in 2020 from injuries sus-
14 tained in the attack. This targeted assault, one of
15 the deadliest assaults against a house of worship in
16 the history of the United States, remains a stark ex-
17 ample of the extreme and violent forms anti-Sikh
18 discrimination can take.

19 (6) On August 5, 2025, the Federal Bureau of
20 Investigation (hereinafter known as the “FBI”) re-
21 leased its annual report on hate crime statistics for
22 2024, showing that Sikhs remain the third-most tar-
23 geted religious group in the United States, despite
24 comprising less than one percent of the national
25 population. This disproportionate targeting under-

1 scores both the prevalence and severity of anti-Sikh
2 hate and discrimination nationwide.

3 (7) The true scope of anti-Sikh hate crimes in
4 the United States is likely greater than Federal sta-
5 tistics indicate, as hate crime reporting is not feder-
6 ally mandated and many jurisdictions fail to submit
7 annual data. Highlighting this gap, on November
8 15, 2023, the former Director of the FBI noted in
9 a hearing before the House Homeland Security
10 Committee that hate crimes against the Sikh com-
11 munity, among others, are “chronically under-
12 reported”.

13 (8) On December 12, 2024, the White House
14 released the U.S. National Strategy to Counter
15 Islamophobia, which acknowledges that greater ef-
16 forts at combating anti-Sikh bias and hate must be
17 made to better protect members of the Sikh commu-
18 nity. The strategy emphasized the need for increased
19 awareness, understanding, and action to combat
20 hate speech and discriminatory practices.

21 (9) Hatred and violence targeting the Sikh
22 community in the United States may also originate
23 from, or be supported by foreign entities and govern-
24 ments and can take the form of transnational re-
25 pression. The FBI has warned the Sikh community

1 about such targeting by foreign governments. This
2 phenomenon was underscored when the Department
3 of Justice indicted two individuals for involvement in
4 the attempted assassination of a Sikh American in
5 2023. Such developments underline the ongoing and
6 varied forms of hate and violence that Sikhs con-
7 tinue to face.

8 (10) On June 3, 2025, following the prosecu-
9 tion and conviction of an individual for making vio-
10 lent threats against employees of a Sikh American
11 advocacy group, Assistant Attorney General for Civil
12 Rights Harmeet Kaur Dhillon addressed the issue of
13 hateful rhetoric against Sikh Americans and stated,
14 “The Department of Justice has no tolerance for
15 hate-fueled threats of violence in our country.”.

16 (11) Anti-Sikh hate and discrimination comes
17 in many forms and includes—

18 (A) physical violence and hate crimes,
19 which can include acts of assault, shooting, van-
20 dalism, arson, or other criminal conduct in-
21 tended to cause bodily injury, death, or destruc-
22 tion of property, where such conduct is directed
23 at Sikh individuals, or Sikh places of worship
24 (Gurdwaras), institutions, properties, or organi-
25 zations;

1 (B) harassment and intimidation, which
2 can include the making of violent threats,
3 verbal abuse, hate speech, or other communica-
4 tions that incite, call for, justify, or promote vi-
5 olence, as well as conduct that places a Sikh in-
6 dividual or organization in reasonable fear of
7 bodily injury or damage to property;

8 (C) stereotyping and vilification, which can
9 include dissemination of false narratives that
10 target Sikhs with a dehumanizing intent, collec-
11 tively blaming or defaming the Sikh people or
12 portraying the Sikh community in ways that
13 normalize prejudice and incite hostility toward
14 Sikh identity and Sikh expression;

15 (D) civil rights violations, which can in-
16 clude the denial of equal treatment, protection,
17 or opportunity in employment, education, or
18 government services, including the adoption or
19 enforcement of policies, rules, or practices that
20 prohibit, restrict, or penalize the wearing of
21 Sikh articles of faith, or otherwise interfere
22 with the free exercise of religion; and

(E) transnational repression, which can include acts of harassment, intimidation, surveillance, coercion, threats, or violence, directed at

1 United States-based Sikhs, that are conducted
2 by or on behalf of a foreign government.

3 (12) Sikhs in the United States endure per-
4 sistent discrimination, harassment, and violence in
5 their daily lives, facing a unique combination of hate
6 violence, prejudice, religious discrimination, and
7 transnational repression. Addressing this requires a
8 dedicated task force focused specifically on com-
9 bating anti-Sikh hate and discrimination in all its
10 forms.

11 (b) TASK FORCE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the At-
14 torney General shall establish a Task Force on Anti-
15 Sikh Hate and Discrimination (hereinafter known as
16 the “Task Force”).

17 (2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

18 (A) draft a definition of anti-Sikh hate and
19 discrimination for the Department of Justice to
20 assist in prosecutorial decision-making and col-
21 lecting statistics on offenses under section 249
22 of title 18, United States Code; and

23 (B) develop an educational program that
24 may be disseminated to local and Federal law
25 enforcement agencies, elementary schools and

1 secondary schools, and institutions of higher
2 education on Sikh and identifying anti-Sikh
3 hate and discrimination.

4 (3) REPORT.—

5 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Task Force
6 shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
7 of the House of Representatives and the Senate
8 an annual report including an overview of—

9 (i) hate crimes against a Sikh victim;
10 (ii) any action brought against a per-
11 petrator of a hate crime against a Sikh vic-
12 tim;

13 (iii) any ongoing threats and trends in
14 hate against Sikhs, from transnational re-
15 pression and other sources; and

16 (iv) any efforts undertaken by the De-
17 partment of Justice to combat anti-Sikh
18 hate and discrimination.

19 (B) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Every five
20 years, the Task Force shall submit to the Com-
21 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Senate a report summa-
23 rizing the annual reports under subparagraph
24 (A).

7 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act shall be con-
8 strued to require the Attorney General to adopt the defini-
9 tion of anti-Sikh hate and discrimination developed under
10 subsection (b)(2)(A) for all relevant purposes.

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: