

ॐ ASSOCIATION OF UNITED HINDU AND JAIN TEMPLES ॐ

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Durga Temple

Suresh Gupta

301-299-5000

Rajinder Garg

703-451-3034

Gayatri Parivar

Ram Singh

703-758-0232

Divyesh Shukla

301-428-2850

Hindu Temple

Shyam Bajpai

301-294-6030

Raj Khanna

301-879-9708

India House of

Worship

B-P. Shah

301-384-4090

Dilip Jhaveri

410-290-9092

ISKCON

Sonia Chopra

703-438-8861

Brajendra Sharma

703-734-0369

Jain Temple

Kamlesh P. Shah

301-933-8123

Kamlesh R. Shah

301-838-9778

Mangal Mandir

Bharat Shah

301-384-0449

Bhargav Desai

301-604-2927

Murugan Temple

Saravanan Manimekalai

301-792-3824

T. S. Seshadri

410-544-2408

Rajdhani Mandir

Manish Kutheala

703-754-0732

Raj Krishnapillay

703-378-6773

Sri Siva Vishnu

Temple

Parmesh Dwivedi

301-464-0703

D. Dhananjayan

703-631-7604

Vishwa Hindu

Parishad

Ghan Shyam Gupta

301-977-6344

Hari Bindal

301-262-0254

Swaminarayan Mandir

Rateebhai Patel

703-525-8979

Hitendra Patel

240-472-6727

Chinmaya Mission

Nanik Lahori

301-652-0696

Interfaith Members

D.C. Rao

Siva Subramanian

V.S.Raghavan

November 22, 2005

Mr. Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Director of Education(joconnell@cde.ca.gov);

CC: Mr. Gavin Payne, Chief Deputy Superintendent (gpayne@cde.ca.gov);

Ms. Sue Stickel, Dy Supdt Curriculum & Instruction Branch (sstickel@cde.ca.gov);

Mr. Thomas Adams, Executive Director CFIR Division (tadams@cde.ca.gov);

Others: Ms. Ruth Green, President State Board of Education; Ms. Glee Johnson, State Board Vice President; Mr. Alan Bersin; Ms. Ruth Bloom; Ms. Yvonne Chan; Mr. Donald G. Fisher; Mr. Kenneth Noonan; Mr. Joe Nuñez; Ms. Bonnie Reiss; Mr. Johnathan Xavier Williams; Mr. Paul Gardner III 2005-2006 Student Member: FAXed at #: (916)319-0175

Ref: Concerning the proposed adoption of the current Social Studies textbooks and Bias and stereotyping of Hinduism in the world history textbooks

Respected Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Green, and Members:

I am writing on behalf of United Hindu Jain Temples Association (UHJTA) of Washington Metropolitan Area about an issue of concern. The UHJTA represents thirteen organizations listed here. The organizations perform activities related to Hindu Culture and Faith.

The issue is related to bias and stereotype portrayal of Hindu religion and Indian history in the social studies textbooks recommended for adoption by the California Department of Education (CDE). We understand that edits/corrections/changes/ replacements have been recommended for Hinduism and Indian history (pages 77 to 105) of the document available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr05/documents/bluenov05item05.doc>. These recommendations arrived at after due process and due diligence, though short of goal are a first step in the right direction and should be implemented.

We request that the CDE and State Board of Education adopts the textbooks which don't contain:

Unbalanced coverage of Hinduism as compared to other religions

Negative description of Hindu values and belief system

Incorrect portrayal of origin of Indian civilization

Omission of earlier river valley civilization of India

Teaching of theories as facts and **biased** teaching of one side of these theories

Biased description of Hindu and Indian women and their role in society

Factual inaccuracies regarding the dates of the historical events

Stereotype description of India as an exotic land

The textbooks which are finally selected must be reflective of latest scholarship and free of all bias, prejudice, distortions, or factually wrong information about any issue. The CDE must not allow or permit ethno-centric views on Hinduism and Indian history in textbooks.

Sincerely,

Shyam N. Bajpai, Ph.D.

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