

**From:** bhavna vasudeva <maker1968@gmail.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 8/29/2014 10:32:28 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rep. Crowley Leads Major Effort to Let Sikhs Play Basketball With Turbans

---

Just FYI, also a letter at bottom getting support for them to be allowed into military service. Sikh's are know as the warrior class, they are know for being strong fighters and the peace keepers.

bhavna

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Woodrum, Jeremy" <Jeremy.Woodrum@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Rep. Crowley Leads Major Effort to Let Sikhs Play Basketball With Turbans  
**Date:** August 28, 2014 3:09:21 PM EDT

Dear friends,

In case you missed it, Congressman Crowley wanted to make sure you saw the Congressional effort he is leading to pressure the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) to stop discriminating against Sikhs. As you know, FIBA has been requiring Sikhs to remove their turbans during basketball games even though many other sports federations long-ago changed similar policies.

In response to this effort and the public's outcry to this policy, it has been reported that FIBA is meeting in Spain and may review their policy – though now the timing is in doubt. We will keep you posted on any further developments.

Jeremy Woodrum  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Rep. Joe Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus  
(202) 225-3965  
jeremy.woodrum@mail.house.gov



**Sign up for Rep. Crowley's e-newsletter here.**

=====  
=====  
**Crowley, Bera, Members of Congress Call Foul on International Basketball Federation's Discriminatory Policy Against Sikhs**

Aug 19, 2014

*Members Add Strong Voice to Growing Opposition to League's Ban on Sikh Players Who Wear Turbans*

(Queens, N.Y.) – As the first members of Congress to publicly speak out, today, Reps. Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Ami Bera (D-CA) led a coalition of 20 Members of Congress in sending a letter today to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) urging the organization to end its discriminatory policy against

Sikh basketball players who wear turbans, an important article of faith.

In July, two Sikh players were told by referees that they must remove their turbans if they were to play in FIBA's Asia Cup. The players, who have always played in turbans, were told that they were in violation of one of FIBA's official rules, which states, "Players shall not wear equipment (objects) that may cause injury to other players." However, other sports leagues, such as Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), allow athletes wearing turbans to participate.

"There is no evidence showing that a turban has been dangerous during basketball games or other popular sports events. In fact, there are many examples of Sikhs who have safely competed in basketball at many levels with their articles of faith intact," write the lawmakers in the letter to FIBA's president.

The letter continues: "Basketball is a beloved team sport that has the ability to bring people of all backgrounds together, regardless of history, culture, language, and religion. In addition to becoming one of the most popular sports in many countries, basketball has come to exemplify how those of diverse backgrounds can communicate, coordinate, and work together in pursuit of a shared goal. We believe that makes the basketball court the perfect venue to showcase the diversity of our world and the ways in which sports bring people together."

The incident involving the two Sikh players has led many to speak out against FIBA's policy, and sparked a social media campaign using the hashtag #LetSikhsPlay.

FIBA's governing board is expected to address the issue of players wearing turbans and other headgear during a meeting at the end of August.

Earlier this year, Crowley, along with Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, led a major bipartisan coalition in sending a letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel urging the Pentagon to allow Sikh Americans to serve in the U.S. military while abiding by their articles of faith, such as wearing a turban or beard.

To read the letter, please [click here](#).