

January 19, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I was shocked to read the very inaccurate comment you made about the United States having never “passed any laws or done anything based on race or religion”. I realize that many, many folks have publicly commented about your statement but I feel obliged to add my voice.

I was born and raised in California and am nearly sixty-nine years old. In school I learned about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the later Supreme Court decision that declared Japanese immigrants could not be naturalized. Some of the families of my classmates had been affected by these acts. Some of my classmates parents had been interned in the Japanese relocation camps during World War II; they had been born and raised in California. The hurt and humiliation runs very deeply.

There are other examples in our United States history but I won't beleaguer the point. I do think that you need to make a follow-up, public statement correcting your error. It is a wonderful model for young folks to hear their elders acknowledge mistakes and it is a great impetus for all of us to learn and to remember our history, glorious and otherwise.

I thank you for calling out Mr. Trump for his ugly and alarmist anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "EB Friedman".

Ednah Beth Friedman
1205 Spruce Street
Berkeley, CA 94709