

LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART  
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON RULES  
RANKING MEMBER,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS

CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE  
FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE  
CO-CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBERTY

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
(SENIORITY RETAINED)

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
The Governor of the State of Florida  
The Governor's Office  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0921**  
September 16, 2008

PLEASE REPLY TO:  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2244 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0921  
(202) 225-4211

DISTRICT OFFICE:

8525 N.W. 53RD TERRACE  
SUITE 102  
MIAMI, FL 33166  
(305) 470-8555

Dear Charlie:

I am writing to you on behalf of members of the Sikh community in my Congressional district regarding the State of Florida's policy of mandatory hair cuts for all state prison inmates regardless of their religious beliefs. I respectfully request, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, that you review this policy, as it contravenes a basic religious tenet of the Sikh religion.

I am informed that this issue came to light when Duval County officials forcibly cut the hair of Jagmahan Singh, a Sikh prison inmate. As you know one of the Sikhs' basic religious beliefs is that followers should never cut their hair. Members of the Sikh community are understandably upset since they believe that forced haircuts are a violation of basic religious freedoms.

Because of their concern for Mr. Singh and for any Sikh that may face incarceration in the future, the Sikh community has presented your office with a petition asking that you review the state's policy of mandatory haircuts for prisoners including Sikhs. Again, I respectfully request, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, that you review the petition and the policy that has caused great concern in the Sikh community.

Cordially,

  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart