

Dear Sir/Madam,

I learned about the recent recommendations on the names of Aparna Rajagopal and Padma Akkaraju to the board of commissioners and I am concerned about the recommended names as they have presented themselves as the voice of our minority Hindu/South Asian community.

1. Having the above-mentioned names selected for the OCAPIA, there will be a total of 3 out of 5 member teams that would represent the same community which is logically against the mission of OCAPIA. **It is not correct to have 60% of the commissioners from the same country of origin and representing the same community. Rather, it is vital to have a diversified board of commissioners representing multicultural groups across the globe. Thus, the recommendation of Aparna Rajagopal and Padma Akkaraju to the board of commissioners is against the fundamental working principles of the OCAPIA.**

2. Both of them have been placed by an organization called Hindu for Human Rights (HfHR), which is an anti-democracy, anti-national, and anti-Hindu organization. HfHR has always been focused on international or anti-Hindu issues, mainly related to India-Pakistan politics. **We believe that OCAPIA is a place to raise local community issues related to Oregon state to make it enriched with unity and diversity that would establish a social harmony, love, and peace, and not to serve any particular group's political agenda that could pose a risk with its decisive motives.**

3. Furthermore, I would like to highlight that both HfHR and the recommended candidates present themselves as a Hindu advocacy group, but historically they have been involved in anti-Hindu activities, such as opposing the refugee settlement act presented in India, which was to resettle oppressed minority communities, including Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, in neighboring countries. Additionally, **they have supported anti-Hindu seminars like Dismantling Global Hindutva, campaigns like Holi Against Hindutva, which malign and attack Hindu festivals, and have opposed the appointments of minority Hindu leaders throughout the USA.**

4. I strongly believe that both the candidates and HfHR are propaganda-driven and will misuse taxpayer money by propagating their biased political agenda, which should not be entertained. Therefore, I urge you to consider these concerns before making any appointments to the vacant positions on OCAPIA.

Therefore, I would like to reiterate that OCAPIA should represent all Asian Pacific Islanders and should not be unbalanced by having more than one person from the same

region/ethnicity/community. **Since OCAPIA has already appointed one commissioner representing Hindu community, it is unnecessary, logically flawed, and against the fundamental guiding principle of OCAPIA. Instead, the commission should look for leaders from other groups like Nepalese, Japanese, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Tibetan, among others not reject the nomination of Aparna Rajagopal and Padma Akkaraju.**

Best,

Shivendra