

For Senator Gray-Jackson, lead sponsor of SB 6

Nimmy J Philips
5th February 2026

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

My name is Nimmy J. Philips. I am the owner of Spice Juneau Indian Cuisine and Spice Café & Gallery in downtown Juneau, an engineer at CBJ Docks and Harbors, and I have served on the Downtown Business Association board for the past four years, including two years as president.

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 6, an act requiring education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In addition to my professional roles, I teach Bollywood dance to residents and work to share Indian traditions and cuisine with the Juneau community. While I am proud of these efforts, I believe there is a significant opportunity to further educate our community on cultural differences to increase awareness and participation.

Teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander history and culture is vital to clearing up common misconceptions. For example, it is important to distinguish that Hindu is a religion and Hindi is a language, and neither refers to a type of cuisine. Misunderstandings of cultural terms and traditions can often be perceived as malicious when, in reality, they simply require proper education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nimmy J Philips
Nimmy J Philips
Juneau, Alaska

