



HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

TIM BURKE
Chairman

ANNA SMITH
Executive Co-Chair Emeritus
1918 - 2003

STEVE BRINKER
GWEN McFARLIN
BRIGID KELLY
JOHN SMITH
JOE WOLTERMAN
Executive Co-Chairs

DARREN TOLLIVER
Treasurer

ALYSON STEELE
Secretary

CALEB FAUX
Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2010

For further information, contact: **Tim Burke**
(513) 721-5525
Cell: 608-6227

The following is an open letter emailed today to David Krikorian, Democratic candidate for Congress (Ohio 2), by the Chairs of the Hamilton and Clermont County Democratic Parties:

David,

We have been disturbed by several recent statements attributed to you.

First, we saw the video of the position you took questioning the role of public employee unions. Your views are contrary to our own and to all those democrats who believe in the right of workers to organize. Working for a public employer should not, and fortunately does not, deprive employees of that right. Your criticism of public employee unions was seriously disappointing.

Second, we have heard from several sources that you have made fun of Surya Yalamanchili's name. Now, for once we find ourselves in agreement with Congresswoman Jean Schmidt in the comments she makes in the attached letter. Like you, Surya has put great energy into his campaign, and like you, he has won many friends along the way. It is deeply disturbing to us that you would use his name, which is obviously derived from his ethnic heritage, against him in a denigrating manner, especially given how strongly you value and celebrate your own heritage. Your comments on Surya's name are at best insensitive and worse appear racist. Surya deserves your apology.

We cannot in good conscience stand by in silence when one who hopes to and may be our candidate in November, conducts himself this way. We will be voting for Surya next week, just as 18 months ago we were delighted to vote for someone else with an unusual name – Barack Obama.

Timothy M. Burke, Chair
Hamilton County Democratic Party
(513) 721-5525

David Lane, Chair
Clermont County Democratic Party
(513) 680-2467

6109 Webbland Place • Cincinnati, Ohio 45213 • Phone: (513) 421-0495 • Fax (513) 421-0757
www.hamiltoncountydems.org • E-Mail: mailroom@hamiltoncountydems.org

✓ Get Involved! Check "Yes" for the Ohio Political Party Fund on Your Ohio Tax Return.





Jean Schmidt

Member of Congress

Ohio

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. David Krikorian
8132 Camargo Woods Court
Madeira, Ohio 45243

Dear Mr. Krikorian:

The purpose of this letter is to give you fair warning that I will not stand by and allow you to use racism to smear your primary opponent's name as was reported to me by those attending a recent speech you gave.

I recently was presented a report on a presentation you made to a veterans group in Clermont County. Your remarks there were offensive to all that find even the hint of racism appalling.

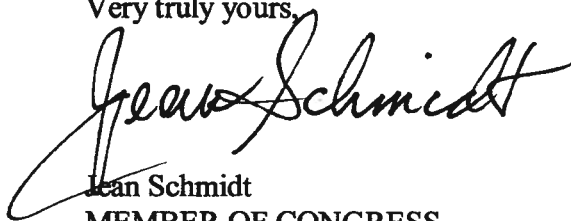
During your presentation you referred to your opponent repeatedly by dramatically and phonetically pronouncing his name. Poking fun at his heritage is appalling enough but your next comment was way over the line. You stated according to those veterans present, "Now do you really think a guy with a name like that has a chance of ever being elected?"

Mr. Krikorian, I do not think the residents of Ohio's Second Congressional District are racists. I am shocked by your behavior. Further, I will not allow your prejudice to go unanswered.

You owe Mr. Yalamanchili and the Indian-American community an apology. Though I doubt one is forthcoming given your history.

Please conduct yourself in a manner fitting a candidate for the office you seek. Racism has no place in the debate, period. Please be assured that I will continue to speak up about such conduct should it continue. I know you are new to the Democratic Party but I would venture to guess that such behavior will be particularly offensive.

Very truly yours,


Jean Schmidt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Paid for by Schmidt for Congress Committee