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AMERICAN HINDU COALITION MEETS WITH SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN (R-TN)

Washington DC – July 10, 2019 – American Hindu Coalition (AHC) was among the sponsors for a luncheon with Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) at the Capitol Hill Club. Sen. Blackburn, who is the first woman to represent Tennessee in the US Senate, appreciated the large AHC presence which included a number of female Executive Committee members. AHC was represented by Board members - Shekhar Tiwari, Harsh Sethi, Alok Srivastava and Executive and other Committee members - Ajay Kothari, Buchanna Gajula, Srilekha Palle, Sonali Gupta, Vasudha Veligatla, Pawan Bezwada, and Kavita Challa.



Dr. Ajay Kothari inquired about the Senator's position on adding the citizenship question on the US Census: "Our organization supports an effective and enforceable border security and our government should have an accurate estimate of its citizens." Sen. Blackburn responded "I absolutely support adding the citizenship question to the 2020 census."

Senator Blackburn discussed her opposition to H.R. 1 ("For The People Act"), now pending in the House of Representatives, that if passed, will infringe on political speech and pose a significant compliance burden for grassroots advocacy groups such as AHC. The Senator pointed out that this bill, as drafted, would regulate all communications that merely mention a candidate for office, or that "support, promote, attack, or oppose" the election of a candidate. Publication of such speech would trigger the requirement for an organization to release a list of all their donors giving above a certain amount.

Dr. Alok Srivastava observed: "First Amendment religious liberty is one of our priority issues. This bill can lead to self-censorship out of fear of communicating opinions that would fall under the vague definition of political speech and triggering the requirement to disclose donor names regardless of whether or not those donors support the speech resulting in the publication of their name."

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