

HOUSE OF DELEGATES WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

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March 8, 2019

Committees:

Minority Vice Chair - Industry and Labor

Energy

Government Organization Small Business,

Entrepreneurship

and Economic Development

and U.S. Mail Facsimile Ms. Roula Allouch, Esquire National Board Chair, Council on American Islamic Relations 453 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

> Re: The "Hate Speech Poster" which appeared at the West Virginia State Capitol on March 1, 2019

Dear Roula,

It was great to talk to you today. I want to follow-up our telephone conversation with this letter to advise that I believe all members of the West Virginia House of Delegates condemn the actions of the lady who brought the poster to the West Virginia Capitol on March 1, 2019.

The poster depicted two pictures, one of the Twin Towers burning and the other picture of Congressional Representative Ilhan Omar from the state of Minnesota with a most defamatory caption which I will not repeat in this letter. The picture in my opinion as well as other members of the West Virginia Legislature that I have talked to feel the poster's contents were inappropriate, derogatory, and insulting.

While our Federal and State Constitutions protect all citizens' right to freedom of expression and speech under the 1st Amendment, this poster was considered as "hate speech" which has no place in the honorable State Capitol in Charleston, West Virginia.

For that matter, this poster represented the type of speech which has no place in West Virginia or anywhere in the United States. The contents of this poster taken in its entirety is condemned by the following House of Delegates members who represent the citizens of the great state of West Virginia.

Lastly Roula, as my friend, I feel compelled to write this letter to you to advise how I and 99% of the fellow delegates in the West Virginia Legislature feel about the despicable poster displayed. You may share this with all your friends. My fellow delegates and I invite you and anyone you wish to bring with you to the West Virginia State Capitol for a visit.

Sincerely, your friends in the West Virginia House of Delegates Ken Hicks and fellow delegates Distuid 16