



August 19, 2019

The Hon. Mani Grewal  
Modesto City Council  
manigrewalforsenate@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember Grewal,

I saw your letter in the Capitol Morning Report. In future, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

In my letter to you dated August 13, we asked you to stop attacking LGBTQ civil rights legislation and take down your false and offensive ad regarding SB 145. The next day, you once again misrepresented the legislation to the Stockton Record by repeating an outrageously false statement that was previously debunked by Snopes.com back in February 2019 — when it was first made by the California Senate Republican Caucus and right-wing misinformation websites. At the time of your response letter, the anti-LGBTQ ad remained on your YouTube channel and Facebook page. I understand you have since taken it down in an apparent acknowledgement that the ad was false, misleading and offensive.

Unfortunately, your purported commitment “to stand up for the LGBTQ community” rings hollow as long as you continue to engage in these homophobic campaign tactics. Knowingly spreading misinformation about an LGBTQ civil rights bill supported by law enforcement, sexual assault survivors and LGBTQ Californians is not how you “stand up for the LGBTQ community.”

I am not sure why you are “somewhat surprised” that your homophobic campaign tactics are seen as “an attack on [LGBTQ] rights.” I understand that Senator Wiener and his staff spoke to you earlier this year to ensure that you had accurate information about SB 145. To continue to knowingly lie about the bill — as recently as last week — and traffic in false homophobic stereotypes cannot be viewed reasonably as anything but an attack on LGBTQ civil rights.

I ask, once again, that you stop using false anti-LGBTQ talking points to smear SB 145 — and the many people and organizations that support the bill — immediately. Your constituents in Modesto and the voters of Senate District 5 deserve better. I also ask that you formally retract the contents of your offensive ad and false statements about the bill; apologize to Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Eggman and the LGBTQ community; and endorse SB 145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Zbur".

Rick Zbur  
Executive Director

cc: Richie Ross

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