



**JOINT STATEMENT OF SABA FLORIDA AND SABA NORTH AMERICA
IN OPPOSITION TO FLORIDA SENATE BILL 1134**

March 12, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI, FL.

The South Asian Bar Association of Florida (**SABA Florida**) and the South Asian Bar Association of North America (**SABA North America**) jointly express their opposition to Florida Senate Bill 1134 and respectfully urge a veto of this legislation.

S.B. 1134 prohibits county and local governments from promoting, organizing, or funding activities related to diversity. The language of this bill effectively restricts local municipalities from partnering with their own constituents to celebrate the cultural and religious heritage of our state. For decades, the South Asian community in Florida has worked alongside local city and county governments to host public celebrations of Diwali, Eid, Holi, and other cultural festivities.

These events are vibrant, family-friendly gatherings that foster civic engagement and build unity across neighborhoods, a cultural significance so widely embraced that the United States Postal Service even issues a commemorative Diwali stamp. By prohibiting official local participation or recognition of these cultural events, S.B. 1134 severs the vital partnerships that allow our communities to thrive.

The potential chilling effect of this legislation is evidenced by local community milestones. This weekend, SABA Florida is bringing together hundreds of attorneys, judges, families, and residents for its 4th Annual Holi & Spring Festival at Tradewinds Park.

The event features the participation of the Mayor and a City Commissioner of Coconut Creek, who will officially welcome attendees. This type of collaborative partnership, where a city acknowledges the cultural vibrancy of its residents, is exactly what S.B. 1134 threatens to prohibit.

Cultural celebrations and official proclamations recognizing the diverse fabric of Florida are essential to making our state a welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family.

SABA Florida and SABA North America stand together in opposing this legislation and urge the Governor to veto S.B. 1134 to protect the ability of local governments to support the communities they serve.

About SABA Florida:

The South Asian Bar Association of Florida (SABA Florida) is a voluntary bar association dedicated to the professional growth of South Asian attorneys and the legal community throughout the state of Florida.

About SABA North America:

The South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA North America) serves as a representative voice for the South Asian legal community in the United States and Canada, promoting the professional development of its members and advocating for the interests of the South Asian community.

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