

Massachusetts 2020 Congressional Primary

Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Ihssane Leckey

Print full name of person completing this form: Alekhya Chaparala

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Role in campaign (candidate, campaign manager, etc.): Policy Committee

Nuclear Weapons

1. **No First Use: Do you support bills to prevent the President from launching a nuclear first strike unless Congress has declared war (HR.669) and declaring No First Use as a policy of the United States (HR.921)?** YES
2. **Will you vote to defund the Administration's program to build new generations of nuclear warheads, submarines, missiles, strategic bombers, cruise missiles, and bomb production facilities?** YES
3. **Will you vote to continue US participation in the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty (HR.1249) and the New START Treaty (HR.845)?** YES
4. **Will you vote for progressive steps to reduce and then prohibit nuclear weapons worldwide through the Back from the Brink resolution (H.Res.302)?** YES

Additional Comments:

As Congresswoman, Ihssane will champion nuclear nonproliferation and denuclearization. She will advocate to redirect funding away from America's dangerous and wasteful nuclear arms program, towards investments in education, health, and a climate-smart economy. She will also advocate to re-enter/continue participation in international nuclear prohibition treaties like New START, champion the use of diplomacy over arms use, fight to restore congressional oversight and advocate for a peace-oriented foreign policy.

Korea

1. **Do you support a diplomatic solution to tensions with North Korea, in which the United States would give security guarantees to the North and sign a peace treaty ending the Korean War, in cooperation with President Moon and the South Korean government? (H.Res.152)** YES

Additional Comments:

Ihssane recognizes that maximum pressure and sanctions on the North Korean government harm ordinary North Koreans more than they help advance peace in the region. As Congresswoman, Ihssane will support H. Res. 152 calling for the end of the Korean War, in cooperation with South Korea's President Moon.

Middle East Wars

1. **Do you support a U.S. return to the Iran nuclear deal, cancellation of sanctions lifted by the deal, and continued dialogue with Iran to resolve other areas of tension between our nations (H.Res.495)?** YES
2. **Do you support congressional legislation halting the unconstitutional involvement of the US in the Saudi intervention in Yemen (S.J.Res.7) and preventing security assistance to Saudi Arabia (HR.643)?** YES
3. **Do you support legislation to prevent U.S. military intervention in Syria, stationing military forces there, and providing assistance and training to insurgents?** YES

4. **Will you vote to terminate the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan?** YES
5. **Will you vote to repeal the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) and only support a replacement that is clearly limited in time, countries affected, and purpose?** YES

Additional Comments:

Ihssane supports a return to the Iran nuclear deal and cancellation of sanctions, restoration of congressional oversight over war powers, and legislation to halt/prevent US intervention in the Middle East. Ihssane will also vote to prevent the US government and private defense contractors from providing security assistance (via aid, arms sales, or other forms) to authoritarian regimes anywhere in the world.

Israel/Palestine

1. **Do you pledge to "Skip the Trip" -- to refuse the all-expenses-paid tour of Israel that's offered to all freshmen in Congress by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC?** YES
2. **Do you support the "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act", introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (HR. 2407)?** YES
3. **Do you oppose "anti-BDS" legislation that seeks to undermine our First Amendment freedom to boycott (H.Res.246) and support legislation affirming our free speech rights (H.Res.496)?** YES

Additional Comments:

Ihssane pledges to refuse donations/sponsored gifts from the pro-Israel lobby. Ihssane supports Palestinians' right to health, safety, liberty and self-determination, and will strongly oppose attempts to silence BDS or any other form of protest.

Latin America

1. **Do you oppose US intervention in Venezuela (HR.1004) and support removing sanctions imposed under Presidents Obama and Trump?** YES
2. **Will you vote to end U.S. security assistance to Honduras unless it makes specified reforms in its legal and security systems? (HR.1945)** YES

Additional Comments: The US has a long history of intervention in Latin America, which has led to the corrosion of democracy, peace and individual liberties. US involvement in coups, arms sales, and other actions have had adverse effects on local/regional economies, safety, health and environmental conditions in many Latin American countries, which have led many people to flee their homes. As Congresswoman, Ihssane will not support US intervention in Venezuela, and vote to end security assistance to Honduras until the Honduran government investigates and prosecutes military/police members who have violated human rights.

Military Budget

1. **Will you join the Congressional Progressive Caucus and vote for its [People's Budget](#)?** YES
2. **Will you vote to reduce the Pentagon budget by at least \$200 billion?** YES
3. **If so, what types of programs would you identify for potential reduction or elimination?**

Elimination or redistribution of funds earmarked for a "border wall"; reduction of weapons development and purchases, including nuclear development within the DoE; ending the ongoing involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, and withdrawing troops; eliminating PR events, including cooperation with film, video game, athletic, and other entertainment industries; implementation of a rigorously enforced system of fair pricing, to ensure that private contractors are not grossly overpaid for products and services; reduction and tighter regulation over Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds, which currently provides the Pentagon with a "slush fund" of unchecked spending.

Additional Comments:

Campaign Contributions

1. **Decisions on national security and defense must be based on national security and moral principles, not profits. Will you commit to refuse campaign contributions from PACs, executives or organizations representing the top five weapons manufacturers (Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Boeing, and General Dynamics) as well as as from the National Rifle Association? YES**

Additional Comments:

Ihssane has pledged to refuse ALL corporate PAC donations (both throughout the campaign and while in office), including from weapons manufacturers and lobbyist groups like the NRA. This campaign relies on the support of everyday Americans.

20. If Massachusetts Peace Action were to pledge its support, how would you prefer we help your campaign? (select all that apply)

- a. [Endorsement](#)
- b. [PAC contribution for general, primary, or both](#)
- c. [Online bundling](#)
- d. [Fundraising conference call](#)
- e. [Hosting fundraising events](#)
- f. [Local and/or national press release on endorsement](#)
- g. [Quotes for your press release and other communications](#)
- h. [Messaging guidance and talking points](#)
- i. [In-kind donation of a professional organizer\(s\)](#)
- j. [Email list exchange \(ours is about 6k\)](#)
- k. [Recruiting of volunteers inside and/or outside of district](#)
- l. [Voter outreach phone banking](#)
- m. [Social media support](#)
- n. [Issue briefing with experts](#)
- o. [Op-eds, LTEs, and other media in support; district or state](#)

[*Would love to discuss with you about organizational resources that can be most helpful for the scope of this race. All of these listed above would be super amazing and helpful.](#)

[Look forward to this!](#)

Signature: Ihssane Leckey

Date: Friday September 20th 2019