



## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Dear Ms. Cyrus,

First, we want to thank you for your attempt to remedy the situation by posting a short news flash on your website. However, we find that this is not enough to undo the damage of your actions, which are reprehensible to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and particularly our youth. We are not attempting to prolong this situation longer than it needs to be. Nevertheless, as concerned fans and as members of American society, we are looking for some understanding on your part. Simply stating that you did not mean to offend and that this incident taught you a valuable lesson does not convey to the thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) fans that you truly understand our grievance and why we found your actions to be so offensive.

In your show “Hannah Montana” and in your daily life, one of the great lessons that one learns is that fame and fortune require social responsibility, accountability for one’s actions, and an ability to step into the shoes of your fans so that you can better reach out to them. AAPIs have been the target of social angst and hate crimes since the arrival of the first Asian immigrant groups in the nineteenth century. Your conduct in the offending photo was and continues to be a means by which non-Asians have alienated and ostracized Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Thoughtless actions such as yours form a foundation of indifference that have led to tragic events like the Japanese American internment. It all stems from a continuum of pointing out AAPIs immutable characteristics as being inherently different. Your mockery tells us that we are not like you—that we are not American enough for you.

We would like you to take responsibility for your actions by sincerely apologizing for your conduct and stating that you understand why we are upset and reach out to the AAPI community and work with us towards eradicating discrimination.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Shintaku  
National Youth/Student Council Chair  
Japanese American Citizens League

Brandon R. Mita  
National Youth Representative  
Japanese American Citizens League