



Asian Pacific American
Women Lawyers Alliance
(APAWLA)

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Mailing Address

P.O. Box 711016

Los Angeles, CA 90071

March 17, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Speaker Anthony Rendon

State Capitol Room 219

Sacramento, California 95814

Email – assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov

Re: Recent Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States

Dear Hon. Anthony Rendon:

The Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA) is a Los Angeles-based bar association that promotes the inclusion, empowerment and advancement of Asian Pacific American women in the legal profession through advocacy, mentoring, and education. APAWLA's mission statement is inspired by the ongoing movement for civil rights and for gender and racial equity for all. Our members represent a broad cross-section of the legal community, including lawyers, judges, and law students throughout California who work for law firms, non-profit organizations and government agencies.

As you are aware, the number of physical and verbal racist or xenophobic incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans has been escalating. Over the past year, an estimated 3,000 acts of documented anti-Asian hate incidents have occurred. Not included in such estimate are the unaccounted incidents that were ignored or unreported. We believe the racist and divisive rhetoric used by the previous administration regarding Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans coupled with the current COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to the increased attacks on our community.

We, along with our sister organizations listed below, ask you to condemn these discriminatory, xenophobic and racist attacks. As our elected representative, you are in a vital and essential position to help reverse the adverse effects of the prior administration's racist rhetoric by publicly condemning these attacks and their misinformed origins. As President Biden pointed out in his January 26, 2021 Executive Order condemning these attacks, millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans have been instrumental in safeguarding the nation during the pandemic, including serving on the front lines of this healthcare crisis. We ask that you, in turn, speak out to protect our community, particularly our most vulnerable, elderly members, from these attacks.

In developing solutions to address anti-Asian violence, we urge you to adopt community-based solutions that center around building



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multiracial and multicultural coalitions and understanding amongst your constituents. Community-based solutions do not rely on increased law enforcement, which raises concerns about discriminatory treatment and outcomes. Instead, we urge you to consider community-based solutions that address the root causes of anti-Asian violence and are restorative for all communities, like AB-886. We believe focusing on increasing access to victim's compensation funds, trauma-informed healthcare and culturally competent mental health services will be most effective in healing our communities from these attacks.

As members of the legal community and as constituents, we urge you to take concrete steps to address the attacks on their Asian American and Pacific Islander American constituents. Your voice will be key in both calling attention to these attacks on our community and in condemning their racist origins. Furthermore, your advocacy for community-based solutions, such as town hall meetings, will greatly contribute to healing our nation and building bridges within your constituency. We are not alone in our calls for increased awareness and support on this issue, and we stand with our community-based organizations serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (<https://www.advancingjustice-la.org>), for more concrete strategies in supporting our community.

Respectfully,

Sandy Yu

San (Sandy) Yu

President

Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance

Email – sandyyuapawla@gmail.com

Cell Phone Number – [REDACTED]

and

Supporting Organizations (signatures and logos to follow):

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County

Arab American Lawyers Association of Southern California

Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

California Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Japanese American Bar Association

Korean American Bar Association of Southern California

Latina Lawyers Bar Association

Multicultural Bar Alliance of Southern California

Philippine American Bar Association

South Asian Bar Association of Southern California

Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association

Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Supporting Organizations in Support of the Enclosed Letter **Re: *Recent Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States***

Arnold Lee

Arnold Lee
President

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of
of Los Angeles County



Rasha Gerges Shields

Rasha Gerges Shields
President

Arab American Lawyers Association
of Southern California



Michelle Kazadi

Michelle L. Kazadi
President

Black Women Lawyers Association
of Los Angeles



Brian Byun

Brian Byun
President Pro Tem

California Asian Pacific American Bar
Association



Kira T. Conlon

Kira T. Conlon
President

Japanese American Bar Association



Joon Hur

Joon Hur
President

Korean American Bar Association of
Southern California



Supporting Organizations in Support of the Enclosed Letter **Re: Recent Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States**



Lorrina M. Duffy
President
Latina Lawyers Bar Association



Valarie Dean
Chair
Multicultural Bar Alliance of Southern California



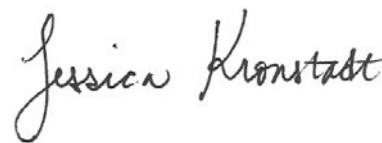
Abigail Zelenski
President
Philippine American Bar Association



Gopi K. Panchapakesan and Vandana Kapur
Co-Presidents
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California



Elizabeth Yang
President
Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association



Jessica Kronstadt
President
Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

