

## **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Former Senior Government Officials Issue Bipartisan Call to Action Against Anti-Asian Hate**

We, the undersigned Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent, who served as senior officials in both Republican and Democratic Administrations and Congressional offices, strongly denounce the alarming increase in violence, rhetoric, and bigotry against the AAPI community. We urge Members of Congress and the Biden Administration to work with state and local government officials to address these concerns with policy solutions and proactive measures.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have seen a dramatic rise of anti-AAPI bias and violence. As Americans continue to face economic and health challenges, Asian Americans continue to face wrongful blame for the virus. According to STOP AAPI HATE, 2020 saw a 150% increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. Since the start of the pandemic, more than 3,800 anti-Asian hate incidents have been self-reported, and of that, 66% were targeted against Asian American women. Though many of the incidents involve bullying, racial epithets, and verbal abuse and harassment, an increasing number of incidents have involved physical violence, including death.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the first Asian American woman to be appointed to the President's Cabinet, former U.S. Secretary of Labor and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, said in a statement, "Such vicious, and unconscionable acts of violence cut at the very core of our country and the values on which it was founded...the critical work to combat the haunting rise of hatred against the AAPI community must intensify with the immediacy this latest tragedy commands."

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, former Washington Governor Gary Locke, the first Asian American governor, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and former U.S. Ambassador to China, called for an end to violence against Asian American communities. "This violence against Asian Americans, and especially our elderly, has got to stop," Locke said, "We cannot scapegoat [and] blame Asian Americans for this virus. Hate is a virus."

For centuries, AAPIs have contributed much to the vibrancy and success of this country. Yet we are sometimes still seen as "the foreigner" or "less American" and treated as the "other". Today, an estimated two million AAPIs serve on the front lines of our country's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic as healthcare workers, first responders, grocery store workers, and other essential roles. They risk their lives every day to save fellow Americans, but even they are not immune to this kind of bias and hate. Doctors and nurses have been insulted, business owners have been harassed, our churches and temples have been vandalized, and even the elderly have been physically attacked.

For all of us, it has been a great honor and privilege to serve the American public at the highest levels of the federal government, working for both Republicans and Democrats. What is currently happening in our country is alarming, and it requires that we all stand in solidarity to protect and support the AAPI community. We call on our political leaders to: **denounce** violence and hateful rhetoric against AAPIs; to work with local, state, and national leaders and law enforcement agencies to better **protect** AAPIs; and to pass and fund legislation that will better **support** the needs of the AAPI community. #StopAsianHate

Signed,

(DEMOCRATS)

The Honorable Gary Locke, U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Ambassador to China

The Honorable Norman Mineta, U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Secretary of Transportation

The Honorable Joseph Yun, Former U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy & Former U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia

Lelaine Bigelow, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Amelia Wang Binder, Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)

Irene Bueno, Former Special Assistant to the President

Nani Coloretto, Former Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Margaret Cummisky, Former Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce and Former Staff Director, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Nancy Ann DeParle, Former White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

Robert W. Gee, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy and international Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy

(REPUBLICANS)

The Honorable Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Labor and U.S. Secretary of Transportation

The Honorable Julia Chang Bloch, Former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal

The Honorable Grace Koh, Former U.S. Ambassador to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019, Former Special Assistant to the President for Technology, Telecommunications and Cybersecurity Policy

Betty Adams, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services and Former Chair, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Vishal Amin, Former U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, The White House

Eddy Badrina, Former Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Victor Cha, Former Director of Japan, Korea, Australia, and Pacific Islander Affairs, National Security Council

Neil Chatterjee, Former Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Lanhee J. Chen, Former Senior Counselor for the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services

Curtis S. Chin, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank

Stuart Ishimaru  
Former Commissioner and Acting  
Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity  
Commission and Former Deputy Assistant  
Attorney General, Civil Rights Division,  
U.S. Department of Justice

Les Jin, Former General Counsel for U.S.  
Information Agency; Former Staff Director,  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Former  
Deputy Director of Federal Contracts and  
Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of  
Labor

Esther Kia'aina, Former Assistant Secretary  
for Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the  
Interior

David S. Kim, Former Deputy  
Administrator of the Federal Highway  
Administration

Esther Lee, Former Founding Director,  
Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship,  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Malcolm Lee, Former Deputy Assistant  
Secretary of State, Special Assistant to the  
President for International Trade and  
Economic Policy at NSC/NEC, and Former  
Director of Policy & Strategic Planning at  
the U.S. Department of Commerce

Yvonne Y. Lee  
Former Commissioner, U.S. Commission on  
Civil Rights

Ginger Lew, Former Deputy Administrator  
at U.S. Small Business Administration and  
Former Senior Counselor for the White  
House National Economic Council

Patricia M. Loui, Former Board Director,  
U.S. Export Import Bank

Papali'i David B. Cohen, Former Deputy  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior and  
Former Commissioner, President's Advisory  
Commission on Asian Americans and  
Pacific Islanders

Cesar Conda, Former Assistant for Domestic  
Policy to Vice President Cheney and former  
Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Marco Rubio  
(R-FL)

Viet D. Dinh, Former U.S. Assistant  
Attorney General for the Office of Legal  
Policy

Christopher Gahan, Former Chief of Staff to  
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) and  
Former Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Judd  
Gregg (R-NH)

Wendy Lee Gramm, Former Chair of the  
Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Holly Ham, Former Assistant Secretary for  
Management, U.S. Department of Education  
and Former Executive Director, White  
House Initiative on Asian Americans and  
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Annie Hsiao, Former Deputy Assistant  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education  
and Former Director of Government and  
Community Relations, National Endowment  
for the Humanities

Anna Hui, Former Associate Deputy  
Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of  
Labor

Robert K. Hur, Former U.S. Attorney for  
U.S. District Court for the District of  
Maryland

Chris Lu, Former Deputy Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor

Charmaine Manansala, Former Senior Advisor, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Former Senior Legislative Officer, U.S. Department of Labor

Parag V. Mehta, Former Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Office of the Surgeon General

Howard Moon, Former Senior Policy Advisor to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Erika L. Moritsugu, Former Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Karen Narasaki, Former Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Tung Nguyen, MD, Former Chair, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Jadine Nielsen, Former Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Small Business Administration

Lorna Randlett, Former Commissioner for the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders

Sonal Shah, Former Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation

Albert Shen, Former National Deputy Director, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce

Alice Joe, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

David L. Kim, Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Mint and Former DC Panel Judge, White House Fellows Program

Jimmy Lee, Former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Ado Machida, Former Policy Director for the Trump Transition and former Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy to Vice President Cheney

Warren H. Maruyama, Former General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Joyce Meyer, Former Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker Paul Ryan, Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

Samuel Mok, Former CFO, U.S. Department of Labor and Former CFO and Comptroller, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Mina Nguyen, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Business Affairs  
Geoffrey Okamoto, Former Acting Under Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Byung Jin "BJay" Pak, Former U.S. Attorney for U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Rudy Pamintuan, Former Chair, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Shamina Singh, Former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs and Former Board Chair of Americorps

Rhea Suh, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior

Jason Tai, Former Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative Dan Lipinski (IL-3<sup>rd</sup>)

Jeanette C. Takamura, Former Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Debra Wada, Former Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense

Chantale Wong, Former CFO and VP Administration and Finance, Millennium Challenge Corporation and Former Chief of Staff, Office of Management and Budget Director

Francey Lim Youngberg, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Candace Yu, Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Assistant, White House Presidential Personnel

Neal Patel, Former Chief of Staff to the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget

Neil Patel, Former Assistant for Economic and Domestic Policy to Vice President Cheney

Tony Pham, Former Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Jeff Tien Han Pon, Former Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Raj Shah, Former Principal Deputy Press Secretary and Deputy Communications Director, The White House

Tina Wei Smith, Former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Chiling Tong, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce

(INDEPENDENTS)

Admiral Harry B. Harris, USN (Ret.), Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Samuel Lin MD, PhD, MBA, MPA, MS, Rear Admiral and Former Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.) and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health

Vic Mercado, Rear Admiral (Ret.), Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans & Capabilities, U.S. Department of Defense

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, MD, MPH, Rear Admiral (Ret.) and Former Acting Surgeon General of the United States