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CONTACT
Nicholas Turton
213.343.5264
nturton@fenton.com

California State Budget Fails to Address Anti-Asian Racism 6.4 Million Residents Are Facing

Stop AAPI Hate Calls for Specific Tactics to Stop Discrimination Against Asian Americans

June 29, 2020 — California’s budget, passed by the state today, does not include funding for critical initiatives to curb racism against Asian Americans, despite the fact that widespread racism against the pandemic — fueled by the president and leadership for political gain — impacts the lives of 6.4 million residents of California.

Stop AAPI Hate, the leading aggregator of incidents against Asian Americans during the pandemic, has been advocating since April for the state to establish a Racial Bias Strike Team to further investigate the widespread and growing problem of COVID-19-related hate against the Asian American community in California and determine the most effective policies to address this problem.

In response to the state budget, Stop AAPI Hate released the following statement:

“Widespread racism against Asian Americans during the pandemic is a serious and devastating issue that is impacting the lives of millions of people in our state. Given the continuing rise of hate incidents and hate crimes against Asian Americans, Governor Newsom must develop a clear strategy with concrete steps to stop harassment of Asian Americans. By excluding specific funding for such initiatives in the budget, Governor Newsom has left the Asian American community in the dark about what accountability and action they can expect.”

“We call on Governor Newsom to include specific funding for policies and programs to curb anti-Asian American hate in the forthcoming distribution of the state’s COVID-19 general fund. We have presented the governor with clear and effective tactics, including using authorized government agencies, such as the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, to enforce existing laws that protect the rights of individuals, engaging the state superintendent to urge school districts to declare their schools as safe havens, highlighting mental health services, and utilizing the Department of Health’s Office of Health Equity to address the impacts of racism and xenophobia.”

“Having rejected our requests to establish a specific task force to tackle rising hate incidents against Asian Americans, the governor must include Asian American community representatives on the soon-to-be-established COVID-19 Task Force to help ensure that the state takes real action to stem racial discrimination.”

“Stop AAPI Hate looks forward to working with the state and the COVID-19 Task Force in the coming weeks on developing a strategy and implementing next steps so Asian Americans can live free from racial discrimination and enjoy equal rights and access to opportunities.”

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The [Stop AAPI Hate](#) reporting center was founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) and San Francisco State University’s Asian American Studies Department.

The [Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#) (A3PCON) is a coalition of more than forty community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable populations.

[Chinese for Affirmative Action](#) (CAA) was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and to advance multiracial democracy in the United States. Today, CAA is a progressive voice in and on behalf of the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community. We advocate for systemic change that protects immigrant rights, promotes language diversity, and remedies racial and social injustice.

[SF State Asian American Studies](#) (AAS) is the oldest and largest such academic program in the nation. Founded after the 1968-69 Black Student Union and Third World Liberation Front student strike, it maintains the strike’s values of student activism, social justice, and community self-determination.