



CALIFORNIA ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Statement on the Auctioning of Japanese American Internee Artifacts

(Sacramento, CA) – On April 16, 2015, the Rago Arts and Auction Center in Lambertville, N.J. plans to auction a collection of photos of and objects made by Japanese Americans held in the internment camps during World War II. Executive Order 9066, issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, incarcerated more than 120,000 Japanese Americans in 10 internment camps scattered throughout western states. The collection was originally owned by historian Allen Hendershott Eaton who received the photos, artwork, and furniture as gifts by former-internees when he was researching his 1952 book, [Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps](#). On behalf of the Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Das Williams (D – Carpinteria) has made the following statement:

“As Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, I call on the Rago Arts and Auction Center to remove these items from auction. We recently recognized the Day of Remembrance on February 19, 2015, to reflect on how internment forced Japanese American families to give up the lives they worked so hard to build. Former-internees donated these items under the impression that they would be used for educational purposes so that our future generations do not repeat the mistakes of our past. It is egregious to profit off items that hold such historical and cultural significance.”

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the diverse interests of California’s API community. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase API participation and representation in all levels of government. For more information, please go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/apilegcaucus/>.

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