



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Shannan Velayas

shannan.velayas@sen.ca.gov

Josh Koehn

Joshua.Koehn@asm.ca.gov

California API Legislative Caucus Chair Sen. Richard Pan, Vice Chair Asm. Evan Low issue joint statement condemning surge in anti-Asian and Pacific Islander American hate crimes

“The recent surge in hate crimes targeting innocent Asian and Pacific Islander Americans is sickening, and the API Caucus condemns these cowardly attacks. Since the start of the pandemic, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have felt the brunt of the previous president’s racist rhetoric, which wrongly associated the virus with a single race of people and then stood back as API citizens fell victim to thousands of incidents of discrimination and violence. The last several weeks have shown that the problem is only getting worse, as women and seniors have especially become targeted for assaults, vandalism, verbal harassment, denial of access to services and public spaces, and even deadly violence. Our most vulnerable residents are under attack and this is a national emergency. We appreciate President Biden’s executive order calling for greater protections for the API community as a result of racism and xenophobia linked to the pandemic, and we thank those who stand in solidarity with the API community. But it is not enough to simply disavow racism, xenophobia, and violence. We must call attention to these injustices and protect one another. This dark chapter in American history is a moment when accountability and action are required to bring about justice and peace.”