

CALIFORNIA

# APILC

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

# YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2019



# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear Friends:

On behalf of the California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, I am pleased to present our 2019 Year End Report. Thank you for a tremendous year of new partnerships, impactful legislation and continued commitment to justice and equity for our communities.

**In 2019, we hosted our biennial Listening Tour in six regions throughout California where we connected with over 300 of you representing diverse organizations, ethnicities, professions and more.** We gathered your insights and ideas at each session and discussed opportunities for legislative action. Your input was invaluable and we look forward to working on these issues together.

**Our caucus championed legislation and budget proposals to protect immigrant communities, promote civic participation and advance education equity.** We fought against harmful attacks from the Trump Administration by leading resolutions to urge the federal government to repeal any changes to the Public Charge rule that would severely threaten the health and well-being of immigrant families and to welcome refugees by increasing their admission threshold instead of decreasing them to historic lows. We joined efforts with other legislative caucuses to prioritize legislation to require ethnic studies in our high schools and state universities. Our caucus also focused on the decennial Census to ensure adequate resources, particularly for limited English proficient communities. Your support and advocacy on these initiatives are critical and we will continue these efforts and more in the coming year.

**We also celebrated and shared our cultural heritage at the Capitol with our annual events recognizing Lunar New Year, Nowruz, Vaisakhi, Philippine Independence Day and India Independence day and so many more!** For the first time, we hosted a celebration of API women with the California Legislative Women's Caucus during Women's History Month and convened a roundtable discussion during Pride Month with the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus and API LGBTQ leaders from across the state to discuss challenges and opportunities. These events highlight the diversity within our communities as well as our shared values.

**More information on how we are responding to the needs of API communities are provided in this report.** We hope you find this information helpful as we move forward together.

The API Legislative Caucus appreciates all of your contributions to making 2019 a success and we look forward to continuing this important work with all of you.

Sincerely,



**DAVID CHIU**

Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Caucus

Assemblymember, 17th District



# ENSURING REPRESENTATION

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The API Legislative Caucus had the opportunity to meet with Governor Gavin Newsom during his first 100 days in office to discuss goals, priorities and challenges identified by API communities. We applauded his initial appointments of APIs, including Julie Su, Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, and encouraged him to continue to prioritize diversity in his appointments.

The Caucus was fortunate to meet with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Ann O'Leary, during Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month where we continued to uplift concerns of API communities and thanked the Governor's administration for their attention to our pardon requests for Southeast Asian American refugees facing deportation.

In an effort to ensure equitable representation in our government and judicial branch, members met with Judicial Appointments Secretary Justice Marty Jenkins and Appointments Secretary Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez to discuss the importance of diversity and ways to work together to identify qualified individuals for consideration.



# CHAMPIONING POLICY SOLUTIONS

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Each year our caucus establishes policy priorities to address issues important to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. This year, in addition to meeting with stakeholders and advocates, we also sent a survey to our distribution list and through our social media to ensure that we heard diverse voices. This input contributed to the development of our **2019 Bill and Budget Priorities**.

Our caucus prioritized budget issues related to promoting civic participation, higher education and healthcare expansion. Our legislative priorities focused on seven core areas: business; education; hate crimes; health, mental health and human services; immigrant rights; language access and equity; and worker protections.

Here are some of highlights:

- **API communities now have increased capacity and representation in California.** The California Commission on APIA Affairs was funded for the first time since it was established in 2002. The \$500,000 budget allocation will support staff and commissioners to execute its mission to advise the Governor and Legislature on the views, needs and concerns for the state's API communities.
- **Underrepresented students have more opportunities and access to higher education.** The University of California received \$6 million to outreach to high schools with high populations of underrepresented groups and to open 2,500 new enrollment slots.
- **More undocumented adults have access to healthcare.** The final budget extends Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented adults who are 25 and under and meet the income threshold.
- **California's diverse communities have a more transparent, better organized and more consistently managed process for local redistricting.** Local Redistricting Reform, Assembly Bill 849 (Bonta) was approved by the Governor to improve criteria, transparency and public engagement.
- **Salon professionals have improved health and safety protections.** Approved by the Governor, Assembly Bill 647 (Kalra), requires manufacturers of cosmetics who are required by federal and state law to create and distribute Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to post those to an internet website in a way that is accessible to salon professionals and owners. It also requires that SDSs be translated into the most prominent languages spoken by salon professionals including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean.

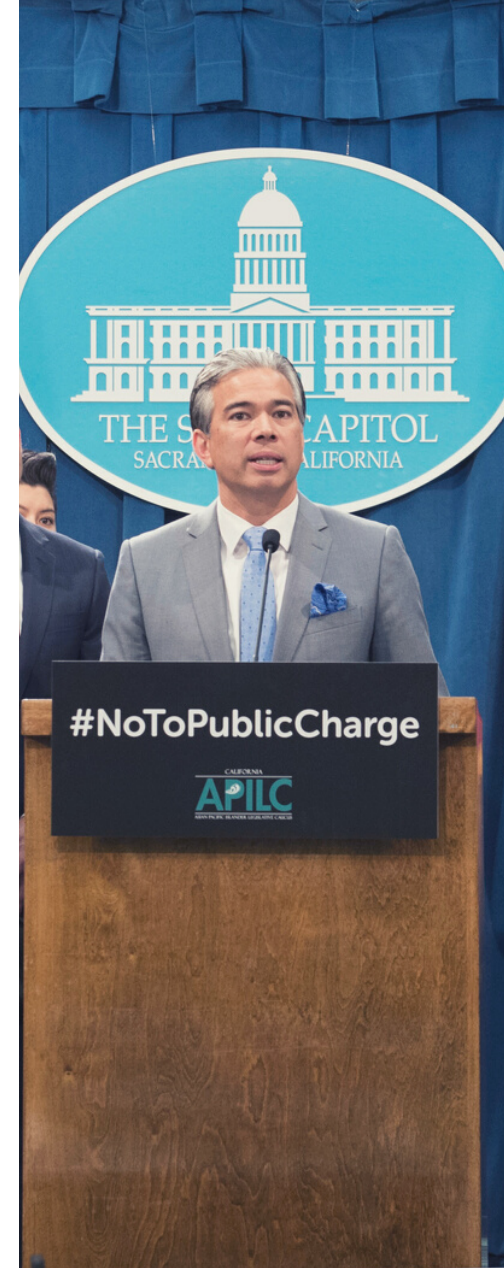


# CHAMPIONING POLICY SOLUTIONS

**Our caucus led resolutions to protect immigrants and support refugees.**

**ACR 1 (Bonta) was chaptered to condemn the proposed federal regulations on “public charge”** that would consider whether immigrants use programs related to health and well-being in deciding whether to deny an immigrant entry into the United States or lawful permanent residence. ACR 1 urges the federal government to roll back the proposed regulations.

**AJR 19 (Gloria) was chaptered to welcome refugees and declare support for the resettlement of refugees in California,** no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin, and calls upon other local governments and communities to join in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the world’s most vulnerable refugees. AJR 19 urges the federal government to resettle all 30,000 refugees that the United States has committed to resettle in the fiscal year 2019, and call on Congress and the presidential administration to raise the Presidential Determination to at least 75,000 refugees for fiscal year 2020.



**In addition to championing legislation, our caucus addressed important issues through committee hearings and briefings.**

Informational Hearing: **“How Can California Increase the Diversity of the Legal Profession and the Judiciary?”**

*In partnership the California Legislative Black Caucus, California Latino Legislative Caucus and the Assembly Committee on Judiciary*

Informational Hearing: **“Breaking the API Glass Ceiling: Legal, Entertainment, Journalism, Tech”**

*In partnership with California State Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs*

Briefing: **“Advancing Access and Rights for Asian Americans”**

*In partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice- California*

# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES



## API LGBTQ ROUNDTABLE

Together with the California LGBTQ Caucus, we co-hosted a roundtable to discuss the challenges and needs in API LGBTQ communities with legislators and organizations from various regions throughout California in an effort to determine areas of collaboration.

## API MEDIA ROUNDTABLE

We invited API members of the press from around the state to convene in Sacramento for a "Day at the Capitol" to strengthen our relationships and share information about our caucus.



## LISTENING TOUR

We hosted a series of six listening sessions as part of our statewide Listening Tour. Community leaders and organizations were invited to share their insights about priorities for API communities in California and discuss opportunities for legislative action. Over 300 community leaders participated. A full report and summary of themes may be found on our website.



# FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE & EQUITY



We partnered with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-California, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Jakara Movement and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center to kick off the 2020 Census Week of Action. **Census 2020 is an opportunity for all Californians to be counted.**



We joined with our legislative colleagues and advocates at "Protecting the California Dream", a rally and march to **stand firm against federal actions relating to public charge, unlawful detention and discrimination against immigrants and working families.**



**Our caucus continues to advocate for Southeast Asian American refugees** who have been targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and are at risk for deportation. We appreciate Governor Newsom for granting several pardons for Southeast Asian Americans this year, including three supported by our caucus.



# CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

The API Legislative Caucus introduced legislative resolutions to recognize and celebrate the diversity of our communities and mark important milestones. These resolutions are important to increase awareness and visibility and share information about our cultural traditions.



Haftsiin table to celebrate Nowruz



Asm. Chiu welcomes guests to the Lunar New Year Reception



Asm. Kalra, Asm. Chiu & Asm. Cooper during Turban Day



Display to honor Chinese railroad workers on the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad



API Heritage Month Honorees (L-R): Judy Ki, Stewart Kwoh, James Syhabou, Adele Lim on behalf of "Crazy Rich Asians", Richard Lui, Lata Krishnan, & Mona Pasquil



Asm. Bonta & guests enjoying the Philippine Independence Day Reception



APIILC Members partnered with the California Legislative Women's Caucus to honor API women leaders at the Capitol during Women's Heritage Month



Asm. Chiu, Asm. Kalra and Asm. Reyes with Ambassador Sanjay Panda, Consul General of India, celebrated India Independence Day



Asm. Nazarian, Asm. Bonta with colleagues during a reception to celebrate Nowruz



Asm. Kalra, Asm. Cooper and Sen. Hurtado at the Capitol Iftar



# PROMOTING LEADERSHIP

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In pursuit of engaging and developing new API leaders, the API Legislative Caucus annually supports the Asian Pacific Islander Capitol Association (APICA) internship program and hosts an API intern day each year with community organizations across the state.



APICA Interns with Asm. Ting



On Intern Day, interns learn about the legislative process and have an opportunity to conduct a mock legislative hearing



Asm. Chau answering questions from interns during Intern Day

Our caucus continues to promote leadership at all levels of government. Individuals interested in gubernatorial appointments are encouraged to visit the appointments website for an application and list of vacancies.

# California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus



From Left to Right: Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Assemblymember Evan Low, Assemblymember Todd Gloria, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (Vice-Chair), Assemblymember David Chiu (Chair), Senator Richard Pan (Vice-Chair), Assemblymember Ash Kalra (Parliamentarian), Assemblymember Ed Chau, Assemblymember Phil Ting, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian

Follow us on social media: @APILegCaucus

[www.apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov)

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