

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

**Sacramento, CA** — The California Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus elected Dr. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento) and Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley) to serve as its new chair and vice-chair, respectively, starting December 7, 2020. Their terms will run through the 2021-2022 legislative session.

“I am honored to have been elected by my colleagues to serve as Chair, especially during this critical time of exacerbated health and economic disparities for communities of color,” said Dr. Richard Pan, a pediatrician and state Senator representing the Sacramento region. “My colleague and former Chair, Assemblymember David Chiu, has been a powerful force on behalf of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) and I look forward to building on his work and ensuing fair representation in government.”

Dr. Richard Pan is the first Asian American Senator to represent Sacramento in the California State Legislature and will be the first Senator to serve as Chair of the API Legislative Caucus in its 20-year history. During his tenure in the Assembly and Senate, Dr. Pan has championed legislation and initiatives to promote health and education equity for underrepresented communities. Dr. Pan previously served as the Vice Chair for the Caucus and Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs.

“I wish to congratulate Senator Richard Pan on becoming the next Chair. He has been a committed Vice Chair and a strong advocate for our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities,” said Assemblymember David Chiu, outgoing API Legislative Caucus Chair. “Over the past two years, I have been honored to serve as Chair and am proud of what we have been able to accomplish: helping to secure an unprecedented investment of \$187 million for California's Census efforts; standing up against the Trump Administration's xenophobic attacks on our communities, including its attempt to dismantle ‘public charge’ policies; defending the rights of our immigrant and refugee communities by fighting against unjust deportations; and fighting for AAPI representation and leadership across numerous sectors. I know these efforts will continue to be strengthened by our new Caucus leadership.”

Serving alongside Senator Pan will be Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), who has been one of the state’s most prolific lawmakers since joining the Assembly in 2014. In addition to serving as Vice Chair of the API Caucus, Assemblymember Low is also the Chair of the Committee on Business and Professions, Chair of the LGBT Caucus and co-Chair of the Legislative Technology & Innovation Caucus.

“Our API community will continue to fight racial injustice in our state as well as address the economic response to the pandemic,” Assemblymember Low said. “The API population in California is the fastest growing demographic in our state and the API Legislative Caucus is ready to address the needs of our diverse community.”

The API Legislative Caucus also welcomes new members Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine), the first Asian American Democrat to represent Orange County, and Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose), the first openly bisexual legislator and youngest member to ever join the State Assembly. Priorities for the Caucus include addressing the alarming health and economic impacts of the pandemic on API communities, promoting education equity and continuing to increase API engagement and representation in all levels of government.

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*The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.*

*Website of the California API Legislative Caucus: <http://apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov>*