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For Immediate Release:

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**CA Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Condemns Racist Gesture Made During World Series Game and MLB punishment**

**Sacramento** – Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, issued the following statement in response to Major League Baseball’s decision to delay punishing Houston Astros’ first baseman Yuli Gurriel for making a racist gesture during Game 3 of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

“During Game 3 of the World Series, Houston Astros player Yuli Gurriel pulled at the corner of his eyes to stretch them into ‘slanted eyes’ after hitting a home run off of Los Angeles Pitcher Yu Darvish, a player of Iranian-Japanese descent. This offensive gesture was seen by millions of people and has no place in sports or in society at large. It was particularly hurtful to Asian American communities who are the targets of these racist acts. We fully condemn this act and expect better sportsmanship from professional athletes.

“We are also deeply disappointed in Major League Baseball’s decision to delay the 5-game suspension until next season. This minimizes the punishment and raises the question of whether MLB takes this offense seriously. Suspending Gurriel during the World Series would leave no doubt that this behavior carries serious consequences and will not be tolerated.”

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>

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