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For Immediate Release:

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CA Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus denounces Trump administration's move to deport Vietnam War refugees

Sacramento – Assemblymember David Chiu, Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, issued the following statement on Trump's intent to allow the deportation of Vietnamese Americans who have lived in the United States for decades.

"The Trump administration's move to not honor the 2008 U.S. – Vietnam agreement that prevented the deportation of Vietnamese Americans who arrived before July 1995 is cruel. This attempt to deport Vietnamese Americans is yet another attack on immigrant and refugee families, and only serves to re-traumatize our communities.

"California is home to our country's largest Southeast Asian American population, who formed strong communities here despite losing everything during wartime. A year ago, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials targeted Cambodian and Vietnamese Americans for detainment and potential deportation, including Vietnamese Americans who arrived before 1995.

"Now the largest group of Cambodian Americans are scheduled to be deported to Cambodia in a matter of days, and the United States is proposing to renegotiate the agreement with Vietnam to accept all Vietnamese Americans with deportation orders. These individuals entered this country legally and served their time for the crimes they have committed. Their crimes do not warrant a life sentence of banishment. Many of these individuals will be deported to countries they fled as infants and children, where they don't speak the language, nor have families, homes or memories.

"While millions of Americans gather around Christmas trees, the Trump administration wants again to rip families apart. This act is a heartless, Grinch move that runs counter to the spirit of giving during the holiday season."

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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