



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California API Legislative Caucus Condemns Dangerous Attacks Against Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu

SACRAMENTO — The California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus condemns the attacks against Yuba and Sutter Bi-County Health Officer, Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu.

Marysville Podcaster, Lou Binninger, has been harassing and threatening Dr. Luu for issuing critical health safety orders to protect the public from COVID-19. At one point, Binninger announced to his listeners that “that gal should be set up against a wall and shot after this is over.”

Rhetoric like “kung flu” and “Chinese virus” led to the rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes that escalated to the killing of six Asian women in Atlanta in March. Since the start of the pandemic, the Stop AAPI Hate reporting project has documented more than 3,700 incidents of anti-Asian attacks nationwide. Almost 50% of the attacks occurred in California and around 70% of the reports came from women. In 2021 alone, more than 500 reports of anti-Asian discrimination have been reported.

“Dr. Phoung Luu is a dedicated public servant and public safety official who is working to protect the people of Yuba and Sutter counties. As the first Asian woman to serve as the Bi-County Public Health Officer, she has faced personal threats to her safety and life for months,” said **Chair of the API Legislative Caucus Dr. Richard Pan, Senator (D-Sacramento)**.

“Women in public health and Asian women in particular have borne the brunt of violent and racist rhetoric during the pandemic and too many have been injured or lost their lives because of hate. Not only does Dr. Luu require protection against personal threats, the perpetrators inciting violence should be held accountable under law before injury or death occurs. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders should be able to safely live and do their jobs in our United States.”

“We’ve seen the way racist, xenophobic and intentionally misleading statements about the pandemic have led to an increase in hate crimes targeting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including the horrific murders in Atlanta,” said **Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), Vice Chair of the API Legislative Caucus**. “The reckless statements made against Dr. Phoung Luu, who has dedicated her career to saving lives and keeping the public safe, are part of a pattern in which the AAPI community has been defamed and

dehumanized during the pandemic. I'm calling on Apple, iHeartRadio and all other podcast platforms to drop this dangerous program before it spreads more lies and leads to additional violence against the AAPI community.”

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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>