



ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**
AAJC

February 25, 2016

Via Facsimile

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-2499

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

As leaders of twenty-four organizations serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, we write to express our extreme disappointment with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley's February 23 letter that expressed the intent to forestall consideration for any nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court put forward by President Obama.

This preemptive refusal by the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee betrays the public trust and violates the oath Senators have pledged to execute their constitutional responsibilities. Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution provides that the President shall nominate, "by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate," Judges of the Supreme Court. Failing to consider any Supreme Court nominee until after the new President is inaugurated will result in a vacancy of over a year – well into 2017 – and prevent the Court from ensuring uniform laws throughout the country.

AAPI communities and the American people expect the Senate to do its job. The nation needs the Supreme Court to resolve disputes and a full Court is critical to a functioning government. The Court this term will hear important issues that will deeply impact AAPI communities. To prolong a vacancy on the highest court in our nation for nearly two full court terms is unconscionable and undermines the guarantee of access to justice owed to the people of this country.

The Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have obligations under the Constitution that they must fulfill. As such, we expect members of the Senate to perform the obligations of the office to which they were elected and properly consider the next nominee to the Supreme Court.



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Sincerely yours,

Mee Moua
Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

On behalf of:

AIM for Equity
Asian American Federation of Florida
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional
Studies (APAICS)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
(APIAHF)
Asian Services In Action (ASIA)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health
Organizations (AAPCHO)
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
(CPACS)
Chinese Community Center (Houston, TX)
Florida Chinese Federation
HULL International (Brentwood, TN)
LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics)
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health
Association
National Asian Pacific American Families Against
Substance Abuse
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American
Community Development
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
(NQAPIA)
National Tongan American Society (Salt Lake City, UT)
New Mexico Asian Family Center
Organization of Chinese Americans South Florida
Chapter
Papa Ola Lokahi
The South Asian Bar Association of North America
(SABA North America)
UDiON Foundation
United Chinese Association of Florida