CHALLENGES WITH AMERICA’S FAMILY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACT ON ASIAN AMERICANS

AMERICA’S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

It remains an American tradition and policy that U.S. citizens and permanent residents unite with their closest family members in the United States.

Families are the core unit of our nation, and immigrant families come to the United States in search of opportunity.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

2 categories of family-based visas are granted:¹

- immediate relatives
- family preference

HOW IT KEEPS FAMILIES APART

1. Outdated and inefficient system
2. Limited number of visas per year
3. Bureaucratic delay

WE MUST UPDATE AND IMPROVE THE FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, NOT CUT IT.

ASIAN AMERICANS RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES TOGETHER

ASIAN AMERICANS ARE IMPACTED BY THIS BROKEN SYSTEM

RESOURCES

¹ The immediate relatives category includes spouses, parents, and unmarried children under 21 of U.S. citizens. The family preference category includes adult children and siblings of U.S. citizens, and spouses and unmarried children of green card holders.

², ³ www.mn.gov
⁴ www.dhs.gov
⁵, ⁶ www.travel.state.gov

62.4% OF 240,000 ASIANS IN MN ARE IMMIGRANTS.²

2010 - 2015 Population Growth

2035 Projected Pop. Growth

22%

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Asian Americans are more likely than other groups to have family members caught up in visa backlogs to waiting 9 to 22 years to be reunited.⁶
THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO DISPARAGE FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION AS “CHAIN-BASED MIGRATION.”

The Trump administration has proposed deep cuts to the program, but what Congress should be focusing on is finding a solution to update family-based immigration. Any cuts to the current program would disproportionately impact AAPI communities, especially in Minnesota, as we are already faced with a high backlog on family-sponsored immigration program.

OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY IS NOT A BARGAINING CHIP FOR ANY POLITICAL PLOY – THIS IS OUR LIFE.

In 2015, 82.1% of visas issued for Asian countries were family-based. Any cuts to the number of family-based visas would hurt AAPI communities in MN.

WHAT IS AAOP PLANNING TO DO?

AAOP is hosting a Week of Action to educate and raise awareness about the importance of Family-Based Immigration. We’ll be calling our community members and talking about family immigration!

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:

Join us for our call-in day on Wednesday, March 14th from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the AAOP office.

Tell us how the family based immigration system has affected your life! Your story will help us to defend against attacks on family reunification.

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