

[DATE]

The Honorable **[full name]**,
Governor of **[state name]**
[street address]
[City, State ZIP code]

Dear Governor **[last name]**,

On behalf of more than _____ members and supporters statewide, the **[state or branch association name]** respectfully requests your support on critical policy and legislation affecting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, including, but not limited to, legislation to end violence and hate crime targeting these communities. In addition, we are interested in garnering support for legislation introduced by **[state representative's name]** titled **[title of bill]**.

Thank you for working to encourage an inclusive and welcoming culture throughout our state. We strongly believe that your leadership on this issue is critical in keeping our families and communities safe.

The **[state or branch association name]** and the American Counseling Association (ACA) have a long history of speaking out against discrimination. ACA is guided by values such as integrity, empowerment and inclusivity, and if we remain silent on the issue of racial justice, our values and mission become meaningless for our members and the counseling community.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, discriminatory and unfounded assertions for its cause have been unfairly leveled against Asian Americans, fueled by problematic terminology used by some of our nation's top leaders. According to [research](#) released by reporting forum Stop AAPI Hate, *nearly 3,800 incidents were self-reported over the course of roughly a year during the pandemic* (Jeung et al., 2021). Women reported a far higher share (68%) of the incidents compared with men (29%).

Reported incidents of hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are not declining. According to Stop AAPI Hate (2021), the number of incidents of violence and harassment reported for a 12-month period [surged](#) in March—from 3,795 to 6,603. A follow-up [report](#) on mental health cited findings that Asian Americans' experiences of racism have resulted in heightened symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress, as well as physical symptoms (Saw et al., 2021).

We encourage you to support Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout **[state name]** by pursuing guidelines and legislation that will mitigate the negative effects of anti-Asian hate and contribute to the overall health and well-being of these communities.

We applaud your leadership in cultivating a healthy, inclusive culture and economy in **[state name]**. Thank you for your actions to promote the well-being of all residents, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Please feel free to reach out to the **[state or branch association name]** as a leading resource on local mental health and counseling matters at any time.

[OFFICIAL LOGO & LETTERHEAD]

Signed,

[Full Name], [Branch Name] Executive Director

[Full Name], [Branch Name] President

[Full Name], [Branch Name] Board Member

References

Jeung, R., Yellow Horse, A., Popovic, T., & Lim, R. (2021). *Stop AAPI Hate national report.*

<https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Stop-AAPI-Hate-Report-National-210316.pdf>

Saw, A., Yellow Horse, A. J., & Jeung, R. (2021). *Stop AAPI Hate mental health report.*

<https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Stop-AAPI-Hate-Mental-Health-Report-210527.pdf>

Stop AAPI Hate. (2021, May 6). *National report.* <https://stopaapihate.org/national-report-through-march-2021/>