



ARC
Asian Pacific Islander
Rainbow Coalition

August 27, 2025

Trans Rights Letter of Support

We, the undersigned Asian Pacific American (APA) community leaders and elected officials, call for the full inclusion and celebration of trans and nonbinary people. Although they are not discussed often enough in the Asian media and our broader community, we must acknowledge and lift up the stories of Asian Pacific American trans people. They are our children, siblings, neighbors, co-workers and friends. They deserve nothing less than our full support as they fight against multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization. We reject the hateful and unsubstantiated policies and rhetorics that dehumanize and discriminate against trans people and inhibit them from living full and authentic lives. We are committed to building a safe environment for everyone in our community to thrive, regardless of their gender identity.

There has been a regrettable surge of proposed and enacted laws in states across the U.S. that restrict the rights of trans and nonbinary people to participate equally in our society and cause harm to this population. President Trump alone has imposed several executive orders that keep trans people, especially our young people, from fully participating in the military, education, athletics, and healthcare. In June, the Supreme Court tossed away a number of lower court decisions that would've protected trans people and enabled them to access necessary medical care. In many cases, anti-trans policies also criminalize professionals and family members who love and support them. Trans rights are human rights. When trans people are harmed, it affects all of us.

Against such powerful forces, it behooves APA community leaders like us to explicitly express our support and love for our trans siblings. Trans people, especially those in communities of color, are already disproportionately susceptible to bullying, discrimination, and violence, leading to adverse health and mental health outcomes, and yes, death. These policies will only make it harder for them to seek equal education, employment, and housing opportunities.

These bigoted policies oppose our scientific and medical understanding of gender identity. We share the belief of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights that these anti-trans policies are nothing but "a false solution in search of a nonexistent problem." Proponents of these discriminatory policies often invoke the rights and safety of cisgender women and girls as their justifications. In reality, these policies often end up excluding and hurting the people that they purportedly protect. For instance, a research study has demonstrated that cisgender girls' participation in athletics has increased and stayed the same in those states with inclusive policies, whereas it has *declined* in states that banned transgender young women from athletic participation.

Because these policies fan the flames of hatred and stigma against trans people, they contribute to (oftentimes fatal) violence against trans people. Everytown for Gun Safety tracked a 93% increase in homicides of trans and gender-nonconforming people in the U.S. and Puerto Rico between 2017 and 2021. Just this past June, GLAAD reported that hate crimes and violence against trans people have risen 14%, compared to last year. These hate-fueled policies cultivate a hostile environment in schools, workplaces, and public spaces that affect not only trans people, but anyone who doesn't uphold the gender norms in a narrow and chauvinistic society.

As leaders of the APA communities, we recognize the positive contributions of trans people in our communities, as social workers, community organizers, artists, business people, teachers, caregivers, and so much more. We recognize that trans people have always existed, and will forever exist, in our communities.

Trans people show the rest of our communities the value and importance of inclusivity and self-determination, because any of us are at risk of losing our ability to live our full and authentic lives, unless all of us are afforded the rights to do so. These rights, as stated in our country's Declaration of Independence, are INALIENABLE to everyone. In response to the recent attacks on transgender civil rights, school administrators, public health officials, and advocacy groups have come together to file lawsuits, re-affirm existing trans-inclusive policies and programs, and stand with transgender members of our families and communities. We, who represent the ethnic, gender and sexual diversity of our community, stand shoulder to shoulder with them and pledge our unwavering commitment to protect and uphold the dignity, safety, and humanity of trans people in every community.

Signatories:

Elected Officials

The Hon. Judy Chu, U.S. Congresswoman, 28th District

The Hon. Kevin Hayakawa, Rowland United School Board

The Hon. Ysabel Jurado, Los Angeles City Council

The Hon. Henry Lo, Monterey Park City Council

The Hon. Danny Vang, West Hollywood City Council

The Hon. Alton Wang, President, Pasadena City College Board of Trustees

The Hon. Thomas Wong, Monterey Park City Council

The Hon. Elizabeth Yang, Monterey Park City Council

Community-Based Organizations

580 Café/United Methodist Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA

Access to Prevention, Advocacy, Intervention and Treatment (APAIT)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Asian Minds Matter

Asian Pacific Islander Reentry and Inclusion through Support and Empowerment (API RISE)

Changing Tides

Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) Los Angeles Lodge

Culver-Palms United Methodist Church Social Justice & Mission Ministries Team

K.W. Lee Center for Leadership

Little Tokyo Service Center

Okaeri (A Nikkei LGBTQ+ Community)

PFLAG San Gabriel Valley API

Search to Involve Pilipino Americans

South Asian Network

Viet Rainbow of Orange County (VROC)

West LA United Methodist Church