

12/07 APA Justice Meeting

The December 7 meeting featured Susan Lee, Maryland State Senate Majority Whip, and Terry Lierman, former Chief of Staff to the House of Representatives Majority Leader and Democratic Whip Congressman Steny H. Hoyer in addition to other leadership positions.

Terry and Susan provided an overview of their efforts to obtain support for a letter requesting Congressman Jamie Raskin, Chair of the US House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to conduct oversight hearings to address the unfair singling out of scientists and scholars of Chinese or Asian descent based on the misguided perception that simply being of Chinese or Asian descent or having ties to China make them prone to espionage. They indicated that while it is important to protect America's interests and prosecute wrongdoers, it is a grave injustice to target or place under suspicion an entire ethnic group. The letter would be signed by not only leading AAPI leaders and organizations, but also prominent scientists, academics, and researchers and scientific organizations, as having a strong and united coalition effort is vital to gaining support for these hearings. Seeing a critical urgency, they noted innocent, dedicated, and patriotic scientists are being caught up in the broad sweep of the counterintelligence efforts by the FBI and other agencies and NIH's related actions leaving them fearful, confused, frustrated and with a sense of betrayal; and having their civil rights violated and their careers, reputations and lives ruined. International scientific collaborations, which for decades have been strongly encouraged by NIH and other research institutions, are now being criminalized. These actions have also severely impeded America's ability to advance scientific and medical breakthroughs that can save lives, especially during this pandemic. The goal is to have signatories by late December, 2020 and for hearings to be held at least by February or March of 2021. The request for a hearing also follows and builds on meetings Susan and a group of Maryland AAPI leaders had with Congressman Raskin and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen in late 2019.

Gisela reported on a draft transition letter to the Biden administration to express our deep concern with the racial profiling and unjust investigations and prosecutions of Asian Americans and Asian immigrants. We will be requesting that

the administration end the Justice Department's "China Initiative," and take other further necessary steps including in the first 100 days to combat the racial bias and profiling of Asian American and Asian immigrant scientists, researchers, and scholars. Once this has been finalized, Gisela will circulate. Please feel free to contact her with any questions or concerns at gkusakawa@advancingjustice-aajc.org

The meeting also covered preliminary "China Initiative" statistics, Legal Defense Fund for Franklin Tao, and an update on Professor Ning Xi and IEEE.

Read more about the December monthly meeting at: <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>

December 2 Webinar on Policy Needs for U.S. Science and Scientists

The second of the webinar series featured CalTech professor and former AAAS president Alice Huang, former White House official and former NSF director Neal Lane, ASBMB science policy manager Sarina Neote, and Temple University professor and 2020 Andrei Sakharov Prize recipient Xiaoxing Xi.

Speakers discussed how racial targeting under the "China Initiative" not only undermines the rights and welfare of many Americans, but also detrimentally impacts American research and enterprise. The expert panel provided constructive policy ideas and changes to ensure U.S. research security and to protect the future of American science and innovation.

Watch video at: <https://bit.ly/3qsxFDW>

Fundraiser for Anti-Hate Crime Hero

Zach Owen is an all-American anti-hate crime hero who made sacrifice to save people whom he did not know. It was an invidious hate crime against a Burmese family including two boys aged 2 and 6, who were thought to be Chinese and blamed for the coronavirus. Watch Zach tell the story in the Tri-Caucus congressional hearing. The hero is also a victim. Please give generously to help Zach return to normal life.

For more details, visit <https://gf.me/u/zbvzbzr>

S. 386/H.R. 1044 Development and H-1B Visa Rules Rejected

On December 2, 2020, the Senate passed an amended version of H.R. 1044, which is known as the [Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act](#). CAPAC Chair Judy Chu and Congressman Ted Lieu flagged their concerns for Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Chair of the House Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee and author of the House-version of the bill. Congresswoman Lofgren issued a press release on Thursday, "[The Senate provisions most likely make matters worse, not better](#)".

On December 9, 2020, a coalition of over 40 groups and organizations, including APA Justice, sent a letter to Rep. Jerrold Nadler, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee and Rep. Zoe Lofgren to express opposition to the xenophobic language that was added in Sec. 9 of the Senate-passed version of H.R. 1044. A copy of the letter is posted by the American Immigration Lawyers Association at <https://bit.ly/2JR7er8>

On December 1, a federal judge [struck down the Trump administration's H-1B visa rules on highly skilled foreign workers](#).

Making the Case for International Scientific Partnerships

On December 14, 2020, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) will host a webinar titled [Making the Case for International Scientific Partnerships](#). Registration: <https://sforce.co/3n2Eh9T>

Speakers include Professors Arthur I. Beinenstock and Peter F. Michelson of Stanford University, Professor Olufunmilayo I. Olopade of University of Chicago, Shirley Mahaley Malcolm of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and David W. Octoby, AAAS President.

Asian Americans Honored by 2021 Stamps

[According to NBC News](#), three of the stamps the U.S. Postal Service will release next year will celebrate Asian American history and culture. One will celebrate the Chinese American nuclear physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, who was also one of six

founders of the Committee of 100, and another will honor Japanese Americans who fought in World War II. The Postal Service will also continue its Lunar New Year series with a Year of the Ox stamp.

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