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ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

September 27, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senator, California
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC), I wish to express our concerns with the nomination of Assistant U.S. Attorney Casey Arrowood to the position of U.S. Attorney of East District of Tennessee. The AAPILC joins a broad coalition of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in respectfully opposing Mr. Arrowood's nomination based on his previous xenophobic and harmful attack against a loyal Asian American.

As Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Arrowood was the lead prosecutor of Professor Anming Hu of University of Tennessee, a world-renowned scientist in nanotechnology who was fired because of the misleading and false government accusations. Professor Hu was falsely accused of spying for China, a case in which the judge acquitted Professor Hu of all charges. This was the first academic trial under the discriminatory and now defunct Trump era "China Initiative," which targeted scientists of Asian and particularly Chinese descent.

Mr. Arrowood's prosecution was based on a discriminatory initiative that judged a person on their race and national origin and not their actions. Mr. Arrowood's xenophobic and unjust prosecution feeds into harmful anti-Asian American stereotypes that incited a rise in hate incidents and violence against our community. The most recent report from Stop AAPI Hate highlighted that at least 11,500 hate incidents were reported between March 19, 2020 and March 31, 2022. Mr. Arrowood's actions in support of the "China Initiative" perpetuate a racist stereotype that Asian Americans are forever foreigners and are not Americans.

During World War II, Japanese American servicemembers fought for our country with exceptional bravery while their relatives were incarcerated in American internment camps for similar reasons that Mr. Arrowood prosecuted Professor Hu. On behalf of our country, President Reagan apologized for the Japanese American lives ruined by a racist, unjust act by the U.S. government.

The Honorable Alex Padilla

September 27, 2022

Pg. 2

Thirty-four years later, it would be stunning betrayal of the public trust that an Assistant U.S. Attorney who chose twice to pursue an unwarranted prosecution of an Asian American on behalf of the racist “China Initiative” would be rewarded with an appointment as a U.S. Attorney.

The AAPILC respectfully requests your opposition to the appointment of Casey Arrowood as U.S. Attorney. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Pan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Dr. Richard Pan

State Senator, 6th District

Chair, Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus