April 7, 2020

Honorable Ronna Romney McDaniel Chair, Republican National Committee 310 First Street SE Washington, DC 20003 202-863-8500 Honorable Tom Perez Chair, Democratic National Committee 430 South Capitol St SE #3, Washington, DC 20003 (202) 863-8000

Dear Chairwoman McDaniel and Chair Perez,

On behalf of the undersigned Asian American organizations in Texas, we urge you to publicly denounce the increasing racist attacks and discriminatory remarks against the Asian American communities, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, hate crimes committed against Asian Americans have seen a substantial spike across this country. The <u>FBI has warned of an increase of hate crime against Asian</u> <u>Americans</u> and urges its field offices to be on the lookout for it. Against all this warning from our own government and outcry from Asian American communities,

<u>Kathaleen Wall, Republican candidate for 22nd congressional district, issued a television advertisement</u> labelling COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", after President Trump stopped using the term and openly acknowledged that <u>it is "very important that we totally protect" Asian Americans.</u>

Chinese and Asian American Houstonians have been doing their best to help. But even as Asian Americans work around the clock to help with the front-line medical staff, first responders, senior citizens and homeless people around the country, Ms. Wall has cynically resorted to inflammatory rhetoric which dangerously stokes nothing but xenophobia and racism.

We demand that Ms. Wall withdraw the television advertisement immediately and apologize for the damages she has perpetrated on Asian Americans during this pandemic crisis.

We also call upon both parties, all elected and appointed officials and candidates to join us in condemning these blatantly racist campaign tactics.

We especially urge you two to call on all elected and political candidates to demonstrate their commitment to keeping ALL communities safe and protected. Saving America is our priority, not attacking Asian Americans who are an integral part of America. Your actions and your choices can help determine such an outcome.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this serious situation.

United we stand,

Steven Pei, Honorary Chair, United Chinese Americans, steven.pei@ucausa.org
H.C. Chang, President, OCA Greater Houston, hotmail.com
Yingying Sun, Chairman, Houston Chinese Alliance, yitongsun@gmail.com
Bin Yu, Chairman of the Board, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Chair@asianchamber-hou.org

List of Texas organizations (More organizations are still joining.)

- Asian Chamber of Commerce (ACC)
- Asian Culture and Education Society USA
 Dallas
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) – Houston
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) – Texas
- Association of Chinese Professionals Foundation DFW (ACP Foundation)
 Dallas/Fort Worth
- Chinese Community Center (CCC)
- eMgage TX
- Fort Bend Chinese American Voters League
- Greater San Antonio Chinese Chamber of Commerce – San Antoni

- Greater San Antonio Society of Chinese Professionals – San Antonio
- Houston Chinese Alliance (HCA)
- Houston Asian American Political Action Committee (Houston 8020)
- Houston Guangxi Association
- Hu Bei Forks Association Dallas
- Join Chinese College Alumni Association (JCCAA)
- OCA Greater Houston
- Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) – Texas Chapter
- United Chinese Americans (UCA)
 Houston
- VN TeamWork, Inc.

List of National organizations (More organizations are still joining.)

- 80-20 Educational Foundation
- 80-20 National PAC
- 80-20 SuperPAC
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)
- Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC)
- National Council of Chinese Americans (NCCA)
- OCA
- United Chinese Americans (UCA)

Attachment: Contributions by Asian Americans in fighting COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the beginning of the outbreak in January, Asian Americans have been on the frontline combating the pandemic and protecting America. Not only we supported families and doctors in Asia, but also, we actively engaged in the local communities here to slow down spread of the virus to America in saving lives. Apart from Asian American doctors, nurses, scientists, and many others who have been an integral part of front-line defenders and medical community, some of community-wide efforts done by Asian Americans, in the order of time sequence, include:

- -Educating local communities on prevention tips and scientific facts, dispelling myths and fear associated with the virus.
- -Organizing self-help and self-monitoring groups to alarm people who have traveled abroad and assisted them in proactive self-quarantine and home-isolation.
- -Organizing meetings and town halls with local public health departments and elected officials, in addressing the anxiety of the communities and economic impact to local small business.
- -Various donation drives and fundraising through different organizations and self-help groups, purchasing, collecting, and sending personal protection equipment (PPE) to front-line medical staff, first responders, senior centers, and healthcare facilities.

- -Connecting local business communities and global logistics network through chambers of commerce and Asian American business, identifying manufacturers of PPEs and medical equipment in Asia, and shipping them to hospitals and healthcare facilities here in the US.
- -Connecting medical doctors and public health experts in Asia, bringing their valuable expertise and experiences to the US in building medical exchange and online resources centers.
- -Connecting doctors, scientists and healthcare professionals, bringing their knowledge and prevention tips to American general public and healthcare workers in disease prevention and public health, for example, by hosting webinars and writing online articles.

As an example, here is a partial list of the medical units and first responders in the Greater Houston area that have already received donations and PPEs from various Asian American organizations:

City of Bellaire Police / Fire department

City of Houston Fire Station #78

Harris County Sheriff's Office Precinct 5 Constable Office

Beeler-Manske Clinic

Center for Women's Health

Colony Internal Medicine Associates

Colonial Oaks at Pearland Dr. Mei Zhang Family Medicare

Greater Houston Psychiatric Associates

Energi Care

Harris Health System

HCA Healthcare Clear Lake

Hillcroft Medical Clinic

Houston Health Foundation

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic with 24 Locations

Kindred Hospital Sugar Land

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital Memorial TMC/UT Health McGovern

Medical School Methodist Hospital

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Nexus Children's Hospital Woodland Sacred Heart Emergency Center Signature Care Emergency Rooms – 9

locations

Sound Medical Clinic St. Luke's Hospital

St. Luke's Hospital Anesthesiology Division

St. Luke's Hospital, Pearland

Sugar Land Donation Event to Mayor

Texas Children Hospital

Texas Children's Pediatric Clinic, Katy West Houston Division of U.S. Anesthesia

Partners (USAP)

Welcome Family Medicine

A resource center built by United Chinese Americans for disease prevention and public education with compiled resources from China: https://ucausa.org/covid19/

Example webinars hosted by United Chinese Americans for community education: https://ucausa.org/facts-not-fear/; https://youtu.be/HZ_1PAb9YZw

Example articles documenting efforts by Houston Asian American Community:

https://www.chron.com/business/real-estate/article/The-Branch-to-close-Mondays-to-support-Chinatown-15117984.php

https://www.fox26houston.com/news/asian-chamber-of-commerce-donates-over-42000-medical-supplies-to-city-of-houston

https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/sugarland/news/article/Together-We-are-Stronger-Coalition-donates-15194588.php

A partial compiled list of published media on Chinese American community in COVID-19 relief effort:

http://www.ucausa.org/go/media-reports/