Thank you, Advancing Justice | AAJC, for organizing this townhall.

The APA Justice Task Force fully supports the end of the “China Initiative.” We appreciate the Department of Justice’s openness and willingness to engage, listen, and respond to community concerns.

Ending the “China Initiative” is a promising start to correct the harms caused by the initiative, apply lessons learned, and rebuild community trust and confidence that were lost in our law enforcement and judicial system.

But we emphasize that this is just a start.

We, like many other organizations and individuals, have broad concerns that the end of the initiative is just in name but does not reflect a change in fact and substance.

On March 8, we wrote to Assistant Attorney General Matt Olsen and requested the public release of a report memorializing the findings of his review.

We raised five basic questions, including the scope of his review, the new role for the National Security Division, the re-start of implicit bias training, the thoroughness of the thousands of existing prosecutions and investigations, and whether the review covered allegations of DOJ and FBI misconduct.

Mr. Olsen’s response will go a long way to help us move forward. We will stay vigilant and continue to stand up and speak out. Our mission is not complete.

We need our government and our university administrations to be transparent, accountability, and operate with fairness and integrity.

In moving forward, APA Justice will focus on three main areas:
1. We call for Congress to exercise its oversight role to hold law enforcement and federal agencies accountable. We thank the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) for its continuing leadership.

2. We fully support the initiative started by the Office of Science and Technology Policy to ensure that the new policies related to research security will not fuel xenophobia or prejudice.

3. We will urge university administrations to inform, assist, and protect their faculty members. Apply fair and due process. Do not cave and do not throw your faculty members under the bus.

The 1,210 days of the “China Initiative” have been extremely damaging to individuals and their families, as well as the Asian American and scientific communities.

We sincerely hope that the end of the “China Initiative” will bring real change, start the healing process, and rebuild the lost trust. We look forward to work with many of you in this important journey. Thank you.