



September 9, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Signature on AB 1726 (Bonta): Data Collection

Dear Governor Brown:

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) is a coalition of 35 national organizations that provides a voice for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities, and we respectfully request your signature on AB 1726 (Bonta).

Many of NCAPA's member organizations have local chapters and community-based organization networks—including throughout California. We advocate for data disaggregation in all areas, to ensure that our communities' diversity is adequately understood and informs effective public policy, and we support AB 1726 in particular because this bill will illuminate health disparities within AANHPI communities by requiring the Department of Public Health to collect and report disaggregated demographic data.

California has the largest Asian American population in the country, and AANHPIs are the fastest-growing racial/ethnic population in the state. Disaggregated health data, which can reveal the tremendous diversity within our communities, will allow for better outreach, diagnosis, and treatment—and ultimately lead to healthier Californians. California's leadership in this effort also can pave the way to better understanding the challenges and needs of all of the nation's nearly 22 million AANHPIs.

Data on AANHPIs as an aggregate group can overshadow the unique challenges faced by specific communities. For example:

- Filipino and Southeast Asian American children are nearly two and a half times more likely to be overweight than Chinese American children.
- Korean American men are twice as likely to die of cancer as Indian American men.
- Filipino American men are more than twice as likely to die from kidney disease as Korean American men.

While illuminating disparities such as these has resulted in enhanced care and targeted screening programs and outreach, much more data must be collected and reported, especially for Southeast Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

AB 1726 includes the Department of Public Health in existing efforts to disaggregate demographic data for the AANHPI community, thereby giving policymakers and decision-makers more information about the diverse communities that they serve—the struggles and successes—leading to better decisions in health.

It is for these reasons that the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans supports AB 1726 and respectfully requests your signature on this vital measure that will improve—and even save—the lives of many Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Kang
National Director