

Date of Hearing: May 26, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
James Ramos, Chair  
HR 41 (Mike Fong) – As Introduced May 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Combating Asian Invisibility Day.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes May 17, 2023, as Combating Asian Invisibility Day, as part of honoring May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) May marks Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a month to celebrate and remember the contribution of AAPI in this country and this state. Despite people from various Asian countries having arrived in this country since the 1850s, the history of this community is one that is full of forgotten stories.
- 2) From fighting for birthright citizenship in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898) 169 U.S. 649 and equal education opportunity for ESL students in *Lau v. Nichols* (1974) 414 U.S. 563 to establishing that all persons in the country should enjoy equal protections guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution in *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* (1886) 118 U.S. 356, the Asian community was foundational in shaping the nation.
- 3) As we commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of these early immigrants, this is also a time we must continue to reflect on the needs of the AAPI community. The “model minority” and perpetual foreigner stereotypes continue to deem the AAPI community an invisible group.
- 4) Lack of language access in most governmental services and inaccurate data masks the true needs of their economic struggles, health disparities, and educational attainment.
- 5) AAPI invisibility perpetuates false “otherness” narratives in our society, leaving communities vulnerable to discrimination, hate crimes, and accostment, as seen in the last three years in which over 11,000 acts of hate against AAPI communities were reported.
- 6) In order to combat Asian invisibility, we must insist on language accessibility, accurate and disaggregated data, and inclusion for our communities that can uplift all to achieve economic and educational equity, healthier Californians, and a stronger sense of representation and safety.
- 7) The Legislature confirms its commitment to supporting and standing in solidarity with the AAPI community to address the disproportionate effects invisibility has caused by advocating for better language access and accurate data that represents the community.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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