



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

May 16, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support AB2420: More Accurate Asian and Pacific Islander Demographic Data

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council supports Assembly Bill 2420, which would ensure that state-collected data is disaggregated into additional API ethnic groups, as currently reported by the U.S. Census.

#### BACKGROUND:

*From Assemblymember Ted W. Lieu (Contact Amorette Yang - (916) 319-2053):*

#### **Asian Pacific Islander Diversity and Growth**

Asians and Pacific Islanders are not a homogenous group, but instead encompass a great variety of social and economic conditions. In order to identify the unique needs of this diverse community, it is essential to disaggregate data for API ethnic groups.

While overall data may show that APIs are doing better than average on certain social indicators, data that is separated out by ethnic group clearly shows that certain communities, especially among Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian ethnic groups, have some of the greatest needs, including some of the highest poverty rates and lowest educational attainment rates in California. Laotians, Cambodians, and Hmong, for example, have some of the highest poverty rates of all ethnic groups.

Similarly, APIs overall have a low mortality rate from homicides, but particular ethnic groups, including Cambodians and Vietnamese, have rates that are two to four times greater than average. In the health care arena, specific API ethnic groups are more likely to face certain conditions, a fact that is masked when looking only at overall data for all APIs. For example, Guamanians, Samoans, and Asian Indians have some of the highest death rates for coronary heart disease.

Asian Pacific Islanders make up 14% of the state's population and continues to grow. From 1990 to 2000, the API population grew by as much as 52%. APIs are now the second largest major racial or ethnic group in four counties and the majority of the population in eight cities across California. With the continual rise of the API population, the needs of this diverse community will also require greater attention. According to U.S. Census Data from 2000, APIs comprise over 17.6% of the population of the City of Berkeley.

### **Current Law**

California law currently requires the state collection of disaggregated data for the following API ethnic groups: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Laotian, and Cambodian. However, this list does not include many API ethnic groups.

The federal U.S. Census provides data for a more comprehensive list of API ethnic groups. AB 2420 will simply align state data so that it is broken out into the API ethnic groups that have data reported in the U.S. Census. It will require state agencies to collect data for additional API ethnic groups, including Hmong, Tongan, Thai, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Indonesian, Taiwanese, and Fijian.

### **Proposal**

Accurate demographic data is critical in developing effective policies that respond to the needs of California's residents. Given the incredible diversity of Asian Pacific Islanders with different cultures, languages, and histories, data that is broken out by specific ethnic groups is critical to having an accurate understanding of how each community is faring.

AB 2420 would provide one of many steps towards meeting the API community's diverse needs by requiring state agencies, commissions, and boards to use collection categories for API ethnic groups currently broken out and reported by the U.S. Census.

### **Support**

- Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) – sponsor
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Asian Community Mental Health Services
- Asian Law Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Legal Center
- Asian Pacific Psychological Services
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative
- Chinese for Affirmative Action
- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse
- East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
- Formosan Association for Public Affairs Sacramento Chapter
- Lambda Letters Project
- National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Nihonmachi Little Friends Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare
- North American Taiwanese Medical Association
- Pacific Islander Health Partnership
- Pacific Islander Kie Association
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- University of California, Los Angeles Asian American & Pacific Islander Policy Initiative
- Center for Asian American Advocacy

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

### CONTACT PERSON:

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