



August 31, 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 Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) respectfully requests your signature on AB 1726 (Bonta). AAPCHO is a national not-for-profit association of 35 community-based health care organizations, 29 of which are Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). AAPCHO members are dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership to improve the health status and access of medically underserved Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPIs) in the U.S., its territories, and its freely associated states. As such, disaggregated data by race and ethnicity is incredibly important in order to accurately and fully represent the communities which our member centers serve.

This bill will aid in efforts to illuminate health disparities within Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA&NHPI) communities by requiring the Department of Public Health to collect and report disaggregated demographic data.

Data has the power to reveal or to conceal the tremendous diversity within our communities. In particular, data on AA&NHPIs as an aggregate group often overshadow unique challenges faced by Southeast Asian American (SEAA) and Pacific Islander communities. Existing disaggregated data collection, including data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been critical in identifying a range of different health challenges and disparities experienced by each AAPI subgroup. For instance, Korean men are twice as likely to die of cancer as Asian Indian men. Filipino men are more than twice as likely to die from kidney disease as Korean men. Illuminating disparities like these has resulted in enhanced care and targeted screening programs and outreach. However, without the collection and reporting of state data on smaller Asian American and Pacific Islander groups, their potentially greater needs are likely to be overlooked or underestimated.

By including the Department of Public Health in existing efforts to disaggregate demographic data for the AA&NHPI community, AB 1726 will give policymakers and decision-makers more

information about the diverse communities that they serve, their struggles and their successes, and where they can grow in order to make better decisions in health.

It is for these reasons that we support AB 1726 and respectfully request your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Caballero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Caballero  
Executive Director  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations