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AAPCHO Denounces Supreme Court Decision Allowing Public Charge to Move Forward, Calls on Continued Opposition to Anti-Immigrant Rule

WASHINGTON – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) today released the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing the Trump administration to begin implementing the Department of Homeland Security's revised public charge regulation, while multiple cases challenging the rule continue in lower courts. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court temporarily lifted a nationwide injunction blocking the rule from taking effect. The rule threatens the health and wellbeing of Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants and all families.

"Today's Supreme Court decision allows the Trump administration to move forward with its cruel assault on immigrant and their families. The Court's decision paves the way for the administration to implement the public charge rule in all states across the nation, except for Illinois that is still under a limited stateswide injunction.

"AAPCHO and our member community health centers have already seen the chilling effects on our patients, who are foregoing essential services, disenrolling from benefits for which they are eligible, or just not showing up to receive necessary health care. This public charge rule is harmful to immigrant families as it stirs confusion and fear among immigrant communities. As we have said many times before, no one should sacrifice their quality of life or put their loved one's health in jeopardy out of fear of being separated from their families.

"AAPCHO and its member health centers condemn this rule and the immoral, unjust policies that discriminate against immigrants who contribute much to our country. AAPCHO will continue to work with our partners to fight against the rule in the courts, in Congress, and at the ballot box. We will not allow these un-American policies to go unchecked, and we encourage all members of the community to stand firmly against this rule.

"For more information and resources related to public charge, visit <u>http://bit.ly/AAPCHO-</u> <u>Addressing-Public-Charge</u>."

About AAPCHO

AAPCHO is a national association of community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. For more information on AAPCHO, please visit <u>www.aapcho.org</u>.

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