



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 4, 2021

## **AAPCHO Statement on the Passing of Dr. H. Jack Geiger**

**SAN LEANDRO, Calif.** – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) today released the following statement on the recent passing of Dr. H. Jack Geiger, civil rights activist and a founding leader of the community-based health center model of care in the United States.

“We join other health and social justice activists across the country in mourning the recent passing of Dr. Geiger, a visionary trailblazer of the community health center movement,” said Jeffrey Caballero, executive director of AAPCHO. “As a lifelong advocate of pushing health care beyond the four walls of a clinic, Dr. Geiger continues to inspire generations of health care providers and advocates to address the social determinants of health and ensure that all individuals have equal opportunity to good health and to thrive.”

Throughout his medical and public health career, Dr. Geiger advocated for a system of care that works for everyone and assures access to quality care for all. Following his years of activism in the civil rights movement, Dr. Geiger co-founded the first two community health centers in the United States at Columbia Point, Boston and Mound Bayou, Miss. in 1965. Today, the Health Center Program serves nearly 30 million patients each year, including over 1.2 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Among his many other contributions, Dr. Geiger was also a founding member of two advocacy groups that won Nobel Peace Prizes: Physicians for Social Responsibility, which shared the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to end the nuclear arms race, and Physicians for Human Rights, which shared the 1997 prize for working to ban land mines. In his final years, he continued to be an advocate for civil rights, raising awareness and calling for action on human rights abuses like the lead-poisoning of the water supply in Flint, Mich.

“The world has lost a great leader in our ongoing fight for health equity,” added Mr. Caballero. “We will miss Dr. Geiger deeply, but his legacy will live on through our work, community health centers, and others working for social justice and civil rights.”

### **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 [www.aapcho.org](http://www.aapcho.org).

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