



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL

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JACL APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF SENATE RESOLUTION ADDRESSING CHINESE EXCLUSION LAWS

WASHINGTON, DC – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, applauds the passage of Senate Resolution 201, which addresses the discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

These laws were repealed in 1943 to strengthen the alliance between the United States and China during World War II; but Congress had never formally acknowledged or expressed regret for the pain and suffering endured by Chinese immigrants and their American descendants as a result of the discriminatory laws.

Senate Resolution 201 was passed by unanimous consent. The prime sponsor was Senator Scott Brown (R-MA). Co-sponsor was Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who has been a champion of civil rights and a friend of the Asian American community. The Senators worked together to show the truth of a sad historical record and to make things right.

“The 1882 Project deeply appreciates the leadership of the resolution’s cosponsors and the Senate, and the community for their support,” said Michael C. Lin, Chair of the 1882 Project Steering Committee. “With this momentum, now we need to galvanize the community to ensure the passage of the companion House Resolution 282. More importantly, we will embark on educating the American public on the impact of these discriminatory laws had on Asian American communities and their significance to all Americans.”

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated, “History can be an important teacher to present and future generations. Because Chinese American and Asian American history has been ignored by most historians, this is a milestone in bringing to American minds that bias and prejudice may create decades of pain and suffering. This is a significant reminder of a chapter in American history that needs to be understood.”

The 1882 Project is a nonpartisan, grassroots effort spearheaded by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Council of Chinese Americans, and OCA. The Project’s larger mission is to educate the American public about the history and consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Laws, their extended impact on persons of Asian descent, and their continuing significance for all Americans.