



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### JACL MARCHES FOR AMERICA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Washington, D.C.** -- On Sunday, March 21, the JACL joined a massive crowd of 200,000 strong in the March for America to demand Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) from President Obama and Congress in 2010.

A Pre-Rally began the day in Franklin Park for an enthusiastic coalition of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) national organizations gathering with banners and drums to kick off the day of support for Immigration Reform. AAPI members of Congress supporting reform legislation spoke out strongly in favor of fixing a broken immigration process. Congressman Mike Honda, Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus spoke emotionally of the need to finally provide a path to citizenship for the many undocumented individuals and why it is important for the AAPI community to have their voice heard. Congresswoman Judy Chu, the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress, spoke of her immigrant parents and the urgency of reuniting families who have been separated by unjust laws and regulations.

Following the AAPI Pre-Rally, the JACL and dozens of other groups marched from Franklin Park to the National Mall carrying JACL banners and signs that read "JACL Supports Immigration Reform". JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, and JACL Norman Mineta Fellow, Phillip Ozaki, carried signs reading "4th Generation 4 Reform" and "Nisei for Reform", respectively. Mr. Ozaki stated, "These posters are important to add our Japanese American and intergenerational voices to the debate. Immigration reform is something that affects all Asian Americans and all Americans. It is a social justice issue where immigrants need to be treated fairly and acknowledged as hard-working, contributing Americans."

The days following the March, the JACL along with a coalition of national AAPI organizations visited U.S. Senate offices from 32 states for a national lobby day. They delivered 1,500 postcards urging Congress to reform the family immigration system which affects many AAPI family members. With the momentum of the massively attended March for America, groups stood firm in urging Senators to pass CIR this year.

National Executive Director Mori stated, "Japanese and Chinese Americans have known the trials and tribulations of a faulty immigration system that actually excluded them from citizenship. Today, new immigrants face similar discriminatory issues of the past. It is time we understand that most of us are from immigrant stock and that the productivity of this nation is built upon the dreams that motivated them to come to this country of opportunity."

Founded in 1929, the JACL has worked on immigration issues since its founding including the Immigration Acts of 1952 and 1965. Looking to the past, these laws allowed many Asian families to start new lives in the U.S. and forever changed the face of the nation. Looking to the future, AAPIs need to make their voices heard in the current immigration debate to secure their unique needs. The JACL encourages its chapters to take action and endorse the [national campaign](#) to strengthen the AAPI voice in the comprehensive immigration reform movement.

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