



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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ACTION ALERT

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THE AAPI WEEK OF ACTION FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM STARTS TODAY

Fair and comprehensive Immigration reform is a battle that the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) fought for decades. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, it is time for us to stand up for more recent immigrants who are facing the same attitudes we faced in the 1920's and 1930's. For this week's National Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Week of Action, WE ASK JACL MEMBERS AND ALLIES TO TAKE ACTION.

The National AAPI week of action from January 12-20 is a collaborative effort among national, state and local AAPI organizations and allies to demonstrate the collective power and voice of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the comprehensive immigration reform debate. Coordinated outreach and events across the nation will engage community members in the broader Reform Immigration FOR America campaign and show Congress that the AAPI community is serious about demanding reform this year.

Here are ways to TAKE ACTION:

- **Text "AAPI" to 69866 with your cell phone** to receive timely action alerts and updates. The JACL National Youth Student Council has taken the lead on the texting campaign (<http://bit.ly/4TikwW>) and all JACL members should take advantage of this easy and innovative opportunity to learn more about the immigration reform debate.
- **Write in your Chapter Newsletter** to engage local JACL members about immigration reform and start a discussion among members. You could use this prompt: "Knowing the history of JACL and the historic struggles of Asian American immigrants, why is it important in 2010 for Asian Americans and JACL to be involved with immigration reform? How is reform different than previous times? How is the JACL different? Why do these things matter?"
- **Call or write your Congressmembers** to ask them to support comprehensive immigration reform.
- **Join a local event.** Find out more by visiting <http://ri4a.eventbrite.com> or contacting us to find out if there is an event being held in your area and how to get more involved.
- **Write your JACL Policy Office in DC** Whether you support immigration reform, do not support it, or know little about it, the JACL Washington DC Office would like to hear your thoughts on immigration reform policy. Feel free to email any comments, concerns, or questions to minetafellow@jacl.org with your current JACL Chapter affiliation (if applicable).

With special stakes in immigration reform, we as the AAPI community must voice our needs to Congress and the White House to assure the passage of legislation that benefits our community. For example, nearly 60% of the nation's 15 million AAPIs are immigrants, 30% of all family-based immigration visas are used by AAPIs, and the longest waiting periods for uniting with family members from abroad are for AAPIs (up to 6 to 23 years). AAPIs also face the same problems as other communities with many undocumented immigrants having no fair way to become citizens even if they wait their turn and pay fines, and being put into detention centers with inhumane care and no due process. If our voices are not heard, then AAPIs will miss out on this opportunity for large scale reform.

Like all American families not excluding JACL families, immigrants came to this nation for a better life. They contribute to the country economically just as in 2009 when 1.1 million Asian-owned businesses provided jobs to 2.2 million Americans and had brought \$326.4 billion into the nation. Reforming the immigration system means justice and equality to immigrants, jobs for the nation, and a more stable economy. GET INVOLVED IN THIS WEEK'S AAPI WEEK OF ACTION!

For more information on why our country needs immigration reform, please check here:
<http://reformimmigrationforamerica.org/blog/why-reform/>

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