



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

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JACL Responds to Sen. Graham's "Sake and Suicide" Comments

Washington, D.C. -- In an interview for a South Carolina radio station, Senator Graham suggested that the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi had the House Democrats "all liquored up on sake" to make a "suicide run" to pass health care legislation.

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization believes Senator Graham would do well to stay within the realm of sober commentary, rather than resorting to stereotypic, racially-tinged hyperbole in characterizing the actions of one of his colleagues in the debate over health reform.

The JACL affirms the comments of Rep. Mike Honda in his criticism of Senator Graham's choice of language. Whatever Sen. Graham's views on the health care reform, it is completely unnecessary for him to resort to derogatory caricatures of Asian culture. The JACL hopes Senator Graham will refrain from using such inflammatory rhetoric that does nothing to elevate the debate and alienates the Asian Pacific American community from the important debate over health care.

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