



For Immediate Release

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National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

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President's State of the Union Address

NCAPIP Response

In the President's State of the Union message last night, President Obama reiterated the critical goals of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians applauds features of the PPACA that have already been implemented, including provisions that allow children up to age 26 to be covered under their parents' health insurance policies, and increased federal support for elders' pharmacologic costs under Medicare Part B. These provisions are representative of PPACA's immediate and long term impact on the welfare of Asian and Pacific Islander families and communities.

The president's address also emphasized the importance of educating our children and the investment that is needed to train and develop our next generation. NCAPIP recognizes that the health of communities is inextricably linked to educational opportunities for young people, and we believe that educational opportunity should be available to all children regardless of their immigration status, nationality, and linguistic background. The NCAPIP believes that the future of health care in our communities is dependent on a strong and vibrant health care workforce that reflects our diversity and is afforded professional education and opportunity.

President Obama specifically mentioned the importance of addressing the crisis in medical malpractice. Many physicians serving the API community are hampered by the high cost of malpractice insurance, and fewer and fewer providers are able to afford to maintain practice in underserved communities. We are eager to work with this administration and lawmakers to address TORT reform and malpractice laws, and reverse the trend of physicians forced to abandon or contract their practices based on the cost of malpractice premiums.

NCAPIP applauds the President's call for investment in our infrastructure, particularly in information technology that will enable improved access and quality to vulnerable populations such as immigrant communities and those with low health literacy.

NCAPIP is anxious to support efforts by Congress and the President to improve health care access and quality to the underserved API community. We stand ready to marshal our resources, commitment, and experience to improve the health of all Americans.

-Winston Wong, MD
Vice Chair- Policy
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

NCAPIP is a national membership organization representing the interests of its members and patient communities. It is dedicated to the advancement of health equity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders and other under-resourced communities through policy advocacy and public engagement."