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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Condemns President Trump’s Reference of COVID 19 as “Chinese Virus”

San Francisco, March 18, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), the nation’s oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Chinese Americans joins other leading AAPI community leaders and groups and elected representatives in denouncing President Donald Trump and government leaders for referring the global Coronavirus outbreak as a “Chinese virus.”

Following a public address on Monday, March 16, President Trump posted on Twitter: “The United States will be powerfully supporting those industries, like Airlines and others, that are particularly affected by the Chinese Virus. We will be stronger than ever before!”

Officials criticized for labeling the current Coronavirus pandemic as the “Chinese Coronavirus,” “China Virus” or “Wuhan Virus” included U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and legislators Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas and representatives Kevin McCarthy of California and Paul Gosar of Arizona. Last Friday more than 200 civil rights groups demanded the House and Senate leadership take “tangible steps to counter the hysteria” around the coronavirus, encouraging passage of a joint resolution denouncing the racism and xenophobia as one solution.

Medical experts and commentators have referred to this coronavirus as the “novel coronavirus,” meaning it’s a new type of coronavirus that was not previously known or understood by health experts. COVID-19 is the illness caused by the novel coronavirus.

Last week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, declared “bigoted statements which spread misinformation and blame Asians and the Asian American community for coronavirus make us all less safe.”

“We are disappointed the president engages in language that racializes the health crisis when his leadership could do much to help to stem ongoing anti-Asian scapegoating,” states C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan.

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.