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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. National Supports Extension of Census 2020 Deadline to Ensure a Complete and Fair Count

San Francisco, September 22, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) supports passage of U.S. Senate Bill 4571, a legislative bill which will extend two key statutory deadlines for the 2020 Census by four months and require the Census Bureau to continue field operations through October 31. The bipartisan bill was introduced on September 15 by Democratic Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both of Alaska.

“Delays in census operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic could result in a severe undercount of the population, specifically in Native, minority, and rural communities across the country,” stated Senator Schatz in a release. “These extensions would allow the Census Bureau to continue collecting and processing data, which will lead to a more accurate count.”

Advocates representing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities across the country are alarmed with the undercounted as they risk receiving less than their fair share of resources from these government programs. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 16 million people were not counted in the 2010 Census. AANHPIs have been undercounted for decades, putting our families, communities, and neighborhoods at a disadvantage. Today, roughly one in five Asian Americans and one third of NHPIs live in hard-to-count census tracts. Some AANHPI communities are especially at risk of being missed, including those that have limited English skills and/or are low-income.

“For an effort that happens once every ten years, with impacts that last for the next ten years, this is far too important to not get right. The Census determines how much federal funding our local communities will receive for services like schools, roads, and other public services—each vital to Alaska’s livelihood,” said Senator Murkowski in the same release.

C.A.C.A. National joins several hundred 200 organizations in endorsing S.4571. With a week and several days to the deadline, we urge our chapters and members to contact their state's senators and urge support of efforts to prevent social, economic, and political disparities resulting from an inaccurate count.

With 20 chapters nationwide, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry established in 1895.

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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), Orange County (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.