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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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## **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Condemns Racist Language Against Asian American Candidate in Michigan State Senate Race**

San Francisco, August 21, 2018 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) deplores the use of racist language by a candidate in a recent primary election for a state senate race in Michigan. On August 7, it was reported that State Representative Bettie Cook Scott referred to fellow State Rep. Stephanie Chang as a “ching-chong” as both Detroit legislators were two of six Democratic candidates running for state Senate District 1, which includes Detroit. Rep. Chang won the primary race with nearly 50 percent of the vote. Rep. Scott came in third with 11 percent. Apparently Rep. Scott made the remark in disgust after seeing African Americans supporting an Asian American and “not supporting their own people.”

The Alliance also was disturbed by documented outbursts made by Rep. Scott in front of voters and campaign volunteers during the primary election day, including addressing a Chang campaign worker an “immigrant” and confronting Rep. Chang’s husband, Sean Grey.

On August 16, Rep. Scott issued an apology for the racial slur, following growing public criticism. “... I should never do anything to contribute to an atmosphere of divisiveness and for that, I am terribly sorry,” she said. “I look forward to meeting with Rep. Chang to express my apologies directly to her as soon as she’s able to meet with me.”

“I’m heartened to learn that in addition to Chinese and Asian community groups such as APIAvote-Michigan, a number of other non-Asian organizations, including the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and the African Bureau of Immigration & Social Affairs, were quick to condemn Scott’s remarks,” said C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin.

“As an elected public official, Representative Scott is rightly held to a high standard and clearly failed to abide by the most minimal standards of respect and decency,” continued Mr. Chin. “While the official apology to Ms. Chang is acknowledged by C.A.C.A., Representative Scott should understand that both the Asian and African-American communities have both experienced generations of discrimination and hardship and she should be emphasizing working together to better our collective future, rather than fighting amongst ourselves. The Alliance hopes Representative Scott has learned a valuable lesson from this regrettable incident.” A closed-to-media meeting between the two representatives is scheduled for this Thursday.



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Established in 1895, C.A.C.A. is the nation's oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Asian Americans. Today 19 chapters nationwide, the Alliance had an active lodge in Detroit at one time.

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1044 Stockton St.  
San Francisco, CA.

Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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), 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.