



For Immediate Release

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Southeast Asian Americans Weigh in on Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Naturalization and Due Process are Top Concerns at Town Hall

Fresno, CA – The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) held a town hall on comprehensive immigration reform today followed by a legal clinic during which lawyers answered community members’ questions about immigration concerns. Communities across the U.S. have been calling on Congress for years to address our broken immigration system. This year, Congress is expected to address immigration reform, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been vocal about the importance of ensuring their community’s needs. Many in the Southeast Asian American community are particularly concerned about immigration laws and policies surrounding integration, due process and fairness in our immigration system, and ensuring family unity.

Doua Thor, the Executive Director of SEARAC states, “Immigration policies have a significant impact on all communities across the U.S., including Southeast Asian refugee communities. The laws and policies are so complex that even some affected individuals themselves don’t know that they are victims of a flawed and unfair immigration system that needs to be fixed. Educational and legal opportunities such as this town hall will provide an avenue for community members to not only learn about the issues, but how they can be empowered to ensure that the changes needed are addressed by their members of Congress.”

Titi Liu, Executive Director of ALC added, “We need to bring back fairness to the immigration system by restoring discretion to judges so that they can look at all the circumstances around an individual’s case before making a determination about their fate. We will continue to let Congress know that now is the time to pass reform and that policies should include the restoration of fairness to our immigration system.”

ALC and SEARAC will continue to work together to educate Asian American and Pacific Islander communities about the impact of immigration laws and toward ensuring that Congress acts on real and sensible immigration reform legislation this year.

The town hall and legal clinic were held in partnership with several local community based organizations, including Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM), Fresno Center for New Americans (FCNA), and Stone Soup Fresno, who hosted the event in its community space.

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