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NFALA APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF THE COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

CHICAGO, IL — Today, President Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law. NFALA applauds Congress and the President for acting to combat the increase in hate crimes and violence and Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic.

Anti-Asian/ Anti-Pacific Islander violence has risen over the past year in this country. According to Stop AAPI Hate, they received 6,603 reported hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from March 19, 2020 to March 31, 2021.¹ The number of reported hate incidents drastically increased in March 2021 from 3,795 to 6,603.² The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, introduced by Rep. Grace Meng of New York and Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, instructs the Department of Justice to designate a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19. The legislation also expands efforts to make the reporting of hate crimes more accessible at the local and state levels, including providing online reporting resources that are available in multiple languages.

“This is an important step in confronting the wave of racism and discrimination we’ve seen across the country in this past year,” said Kristy Gonowon, President of NFALA. “Hate has no place in this country and AAPIs are just as American as everyone else. We will continue to advocate for equity across our society and justice for those who have been victims of anti-Asian hate crimes.”

NFALA is the national voice for the Filipino American legal profession. It advocates for justice, civil rights, and equal opportunity for the Filipino American community. It cultivates high standards of integrity and professionalism among its members and strives for the advancement and success of Filipino Americans within the profession. NFALA is a family, comprised of members throughout the United States, with the shared goal of increasing its national growth, impact, and visibility while also celebrating its members’ cultural heritage.

To learn more about NFALA, visit nfala.com, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@NFALA1](#)) and Instagram ([@filamlawyers](#)).

¹ STOP AAPI HATE, STOP AAPI HATE NATIONAL REPORT (2021), <https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Stop-AAPI-Hate-Report-National-210506.pdf>.

² *Id.*