



January 13, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC (Advancing Justice | AAJC) urges House leadership to discontinue all efforts underway to defund or weaken President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

Specifically, several Representatives have proposed expansive and short-sighted amendments to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2015 (H.R. 240) that would undercut President's Obama recent executive actions on immigration. Each of these amendments are an attack to hardworking Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) immigrants and their families, and none are worthy of consideration.

Advancing Justice | AAJC applauds President Obama's leadership to help immigrants and our families. The AAPI community stands to benefit significantly from President Obama's executive action on immigration. Nearly 500,000 AAPIs will benefit from relief through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability. Many more will benefit from proposed changes to the I-601A provisional waiver, the changes in DHS enforcement priorities, and other changes contemplated by the President's recent actions. These executive changes will promote family unity and allow many immigrants to live and work without fear of deportation and separation from their loved ones. Further, President Obama's actions are clearly supported by legal authority and precedent. It makes sense that DHS should prioritize its limited resources on keeping our communities safe rather than randomly rounding up immigrants.

By deciding to attach these poison-pill amendments to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, the bill's sponsors and supporters show once more—just one week into the 114th Congress—that they are not serious about legislating. Real lives are at stake here. Advancing Justice-AAJC strongly urges members to focus on legislation that keeps families together, protects workers and strengthens businesses, and emphasizes due process and fairness.

We look forward to working with all members who are serious about improving our immigration laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mee Moua". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Mee Moua
President and Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Whip
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip
The Honorable Judy Chu, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

