

# END-OF-YEAR POLICY REPORT

December 2024



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## “ — WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CONNIE

This year, AJSOCAL continues our work to amplify Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) stories and fight for investment in our community through the state and this country.

Despite the difficult budget year, our policy team continues the cross-cultural solidarity work to uplift the urgent need to expand college access, address language needs and the intersectionality between LGBTQ and the AAPI Community.

Our work is not over - particularly as we think about the year ahead and the changes that are to come in the federal landscape under the new president - but I am proud of the AAPI voices in Sacramento and we are committed to tell our untold stories that will lead to inclusive policies that serve all Californians.



Connie Chung Joe, JD,  
Chief Executive Officer



## ABOUT AJSOCAL

### OUR MISSION

AJSOCAL is a social justice organization that protects and strengthens the rights and dignity of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, especially those that are most disadvantaged.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California is based in downtown Los Angeles, with offices in Orange County and Sacramento.



# 2024 WORK ACCOMPLISHED



**OUR** COMBATTING  
ASIAN  
INVISIBILITY

**UNTOLD** 

**STORIES** 

2024-2025

## Policy Campaign: Combating Asian Invisibility: Our Untold Stories

Through our policy package this year, we highlighted the **forgotten stories** of AAPIs in some of our community's most vulnerable sectors.

The "Our Untold Stories" campaign amplified the unique challenges that AAPI communities encounter in labor, education, and public safety. Centering their unique lived experiences and needs as part of larger state conversations.

## AJSOCAL Sponsored Legislation: SIGNED!

This year, we co-sponsored AB 1780 (Ting) that was signed by the Governor. This bill **prohibits California's private colleges and universities from providing preferential admissions** to children of alumni and donors, a practice known as "legacy admissions." This will allow for a fairer practice of admitting students based on their qualifications and accomplishments, and eliminates the special treatment of people with wealth and connections.

**We thank Assemblymember Phil Ting for his continued commitment to expand college access!**

**LEGACY**   
**ADMISSIONS**  
**BAN**  **AB1780**



## LGBTQIA+ and AAPI Intersectionality

AJSOCAL officially launched the AAPI Queer Joy campaign to represent and advocate for the **Queer and Trans Asian Pacific Islander (QTAPI)** community. This initiative is guided by our close partnerships with QTAPI leaders around the state: API Equality-LA (Los Angeles), Lavender Phoenix (Bay Area), and Viet Rainbow of Orange County (VROC) (Orange County).



The QTAPI community is often forgotten and rendered voiceless, leaving their needs unmet. Our partners' data reveals that housing insecurity disproportionately affects QTAPIs, that **1 in 6 QTAPIs experience physical abuse\***, and that **QTAPIs have an attempted suicide rate twice as high as the overall LGBTQ+ community** due to difficulties accessing mental healthcare.

AJSOCAL's AAPI Queer Joy initiative responds to this gap by uplifting the needs of the QTAPI community and asking legislators to remember this diverse, intersectional community when making decisions on policies intended to support all members of the AAPI and/or LGBTQ+ communities.

This year we met with **eight members** of the AAPI and LGBT Caucuses to raise awareness about the QTAPI community's most pressing needs.

AJSOCAL launched the AAPI Queer Joy initiative with the inaugural Jade Jubilee on June 5th, a drag brunch featuring local Asian American drag performers. **Over 70 attendees joined us in Sacramento to celebrate and to illuminate the QTAPI community.** In 2025, we will continue to build this coalition with more QTAPI-serving organizations and community leaders.



**1 in 6**  
QTAPIs experience  
physical abuse\*







## Asian Migrant Arrivals

**In FY 2024, 24,314 Chinese nationals were encountered at the Southwestern Land border, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, compared to only 450 recorded in 2021, a 5,000% increase.**

At the border, Chinese and Asian migrants have virtually no in-language or culturally competent assistance. Without information on how to turn themselves in to border patrol agents, or basic information that lead them to food, water and sanitation, these migrants are hyper-vulnerable to exploitation.

To increase awareness of the dramatic shift of migrant arrivals and their unique needs, AJSOCAL hosted a Border visit in March with partner organizations in San Diego to educate state legislators on current service gaps, especially that of language accessibility. **State Assemblymembers Mike Fong, Alex Lee, Dr. Corey Jackson, Christopher M. Ward, and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** attended the visit.







## College4ALL 2024 Advocacy Day

In June, AJSOCAL led another successful annual Advocacy Day on behalf of the College For All (C4A) coalition.

Since it's founding, the College for All Coalition has included more than **60 diverse organizations** representing different communities across the state. Together, we **represent the needs and diverse voices of students, parents** and from organizations who do advocacy in areas like education, labor, faith, and civil rights.

C4A promotes and advocates for full access, full investment, and full equity in public and higher education to benefit all California students.



This year's College4All's Advocacy Day trip had over **50 attendees from 15 different organizations statewide** which participated in **60+ meetings with legislators or their staffers**.

Our bill priorities included:

**AB 2458 (Berman)** which sought to create more support and aid for student parents;

**AB 2057 (Berman)** which aimed to improve the college transfers process and together;

**SB 1244 (Newman)** and **AB 359 (Holden)** emphasized pathways to higher education classes while in high school to encourage more enrollment at community colleges and universities upon graduation.





# LEGISLATIVE WORK TO BE CONTINUED



## AB 2444 Justice in Beauty

AB 2444 Justice in Beauty (Lee) would have strengthened workers rights for nail salon workers, especially those who have limited English proficiency. This bill would have ensured the state is providing in-language educational materials to Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese and Spanish speaking nail manicurists and workers in the barbering and cosmetology understanding their workers rights.

This bill was held in Assembly Appropriations.



## AB 2155 Bilingual Oriented Social Equity Services (BOSES) Grant

AB 2155 would have provided funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide bilingual pay to their direct services staff assisting Limited English Proficient (LEP) speakers. The grants would have 60% of the funding going toward underserved language communities and 40% to more commonly spoken language communities.

The bill was held in Assembly Appropriations.



## Budget ask: Trafficking Research and Analysis to Counter Exploitation (TRACE)

TRACE would have allocated \$3.25 million state fund for the first prevalence study in California that looks at both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The study would have identified recommendations for consistent data collection moving forward, and provide opportunities to engage with survivors to inform better policymaking.



## Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continued to be underrepresented

Although AAPIs make up about 16% of California's population, **Asian American and Pacific Islander stories are underrepresented in the California Legislature.**

In 2025, the AAPI Legislative Caucus will have **11 Democratic Legislators** (less than 10% of the entire Legislature), an underrepresentation of the Asian American population in California (16%). **Pacific Islanders still have zero representation.**

However, the Caucus will see **5 Asian American women**, an all time high since 2016.

### 2025 AAPI Legislative Caucus Members



Asm. Mike Fong



Asm. Stephanie Nguyen



Asm. Alex Lee



Sen. Aisha Wahab



Asm. Ash Kalra



Asm. Jasmeet Bains



Asm. Al Muratsuchi



Sen. Christopher Cabaldon



Asm. John Harabedian



Asm. Jessica Caloza



Asm. Darshana Patel

With 120 Legislators in the California Legislature, AAPI legislators make up **less than 10%** of the Assembly and Senate.



## Coming up next year: Legislative Scorecard!

To monitor how our state Legislature supports funding and legislation that affects the Asian American community, AJSOCAL policy team will start providing updates through a Legislative Scorecard. The scorecard will track the Legislature's support on many topics, including:



**Education Equity**



**Language Accessibility**



**LGBTQ+ Protection**



**Data Equity**



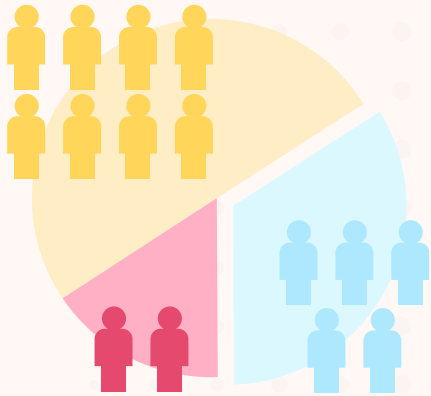
**Criminal Justice Reform**



# ISSUE AREAS

BELOW ARE SOME BILLS WE FOLLOWED AND SUPPORTED THIS YEAR. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD NEXT YEAR FOR MORE!

## DATA DISAGGREGATION



**SB 1016 (Lena Gonzalez)** - Requires the Department of Public Health (CDPH), to collect anonymous demographic data on the ancestry or ethnic origin of specified Latino, and Indigenous Peoples.

**Signed by the Governor.**

**SB 782 (Limon)** - Would have required the Governor's office to annually report the aggregate demographic information of gubernatorial appointees to increase transparency in the appointment process.

**Vetoed by the Governor.**

## LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY

**SB 1078 (Min)** - Would have established the Office of Language Access (OLA) within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to lead the development, monitoring, and updating of departments' Language Access Plans and establish a Language Access Advisory Workgroup.

**Held in Senate Appropriations.**

**AB 2310 (Hart)** - Ensures language access for parole candidates with limited English proficiency (LEP) by requiring the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to provide translated documents and certified interpreters.

**Signed by the Governor.**

**AB 884 (Low)** - Would have expanded California's language access support for voter registration and voting to more language communities in California.

**Vetoed by Governor.**



## EDUCATION EQUITY



**AB 2074 (Muratsuchi)** - Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a statewide implementation plan for the English Learner (EL) Roadmap Policy.

**Signed by the Governor.**

**AB 2458 (Berman)** - Increases access to financial aid for student parents and enables colleges to more effectively identify and support the student parents they serve.

**Signed by the Governor.**



ASIAN AMERICANS  
**ADVANCING  
JUSTICE**  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA