



NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC CENTER ON AGING

June 8, 2015

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Ms. Nora Super
Executive Director
White House Conference on Aging
200 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 637D
Hubert Humphrey Building
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Super,

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) commends you for creating a process to allow interested parties an opportunity to respond to the policy briefs issued by the 2015 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA).

Noticeably absent was any mention of the impact that the four issue areas have on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults. While we are disappointed, we know that these documents were drafted with a specific purpose in mind that would spark maximum discussion to shape the national conference. We also know that the WHCOA is cognizant of the issues facing diverse elders, and that these policy briefs may not have been the vehicle to address specific policies and programs affecting AAPI seniors.

Therefore, moving forward, NAPCA requests that the WHCOA demonstrate its commitment to reshape aging policy for all older Americans by explicitly shining the spotlight on AAPI elders to ensure that AAPI elders have access to and equity in the services, benefits, and programs that are available to all American seniors. We respectfully ask that you perform the following actions:

1. All written reports summarizing the data gathered at the pre-WHCOA regional forums, listening sessions, and other WHCOA-sponsored activities have, at a minimum, a chapter that reflects what you heard from our AAPI elder participants.
2. At the 2015 WHCOA on July 13, 2015, that a specific agenda item include a discussion of the impact of aging policy on AAPI seniors and other diverse elders.
3. NAPCA and other leaders who advocate on behalf of AAPI elders be consulted by the WHCOA and the administration when conducting its policy analysis so that we can provide input on specific policy proposals that are under consideration.

4. The impact on AAPI seniors should always be a variable when conducting a cost-benefit analysis on aging policy proposals, and that the findings that lead to the ultimate policy decision should be transparent and shared widely.

These action items are meant to create a partnership, a process, and policies that enable AAPI elders to age with dignity, well-being, and a high quality of life. Thank you for considering our requests.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at wesley@napca.org or at 206-624-1221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Lum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley Lum, PhD, MPH
President and CEO