

FEATURE

Supporting CAPAC Members' Statement Against Rubio and Wray's Remarks Singling Out Chinese Students and Scientists

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SACRAMENTO, CA - **The Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)** supports the statement released by **The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)** on February 15, 2018 regarding comments by FBI Director Chris Wray and Senator Marco Rubio's comments which attempt to portray Chinese international students and scientists as national security threats.

During a February 13th Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on worldwide threats, Senator Rubio asked, "What...is the counterintelligence risk posed to U.S. National Security from Chinese students, particularly those in advanced programs in the sciences and mathematics?" Director Wray responded that Chinese students and scholars pose a national security threat that requires "a whole-of-society response by us." Wray stated that China was implementing a plan to replace the U.S. as the foremost global power in a variety of ways, including infiltrating academia and through China's Confucius Institutes.

The remarks scapegoat an important segment of our population and portray the negative stereotype of Asians in our country as foreigners. These agencies and representatives of our government should not rely on racial profiling tactics of assuming guilt over innocence under the guise of national security.

Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) issued the following statements in response to Senator Rubio and Director Wray's comments:

Congress member & CAPAC Chair Judy Chu: "There is no doubt that we must take espionage threats from foreign countries seriously. However, Senator Rubio's leading question and FBI Director Wray's sweepingly broad response were completely irresponsible generalizations that attempt to paint all Chinese students and scholars as spies for China. I condemn these remarks entirely and reject these dangerous attempts to build a case that Chinese students, professors, and scholars should be viewed with more suspicion than others."

Congress member & CAPAC Whip Ted Lieu: "It is this false narrative that contributed to the wrongful indictments of Chinese-Americans like Sherry Chen and Professor Xiaoxing Xi. I called on FBI Director Wray to clarify his comments and make a strong statement that Chinese-Americans are not viewed by the FBI as any more suspicious than any other American."

Congress member Grace Meng: "I strongly condemn comments made by the Trump Administration's FBI Director Christopher Wray that racially profile international students from China. The intelligence community, rightfully, should always be concerned about foreign nationals who have access to our most sensitive secrets. That, however, never excuses an attempt to categorize an entire group of people as a threat to our national security. This narrative is unfortunately not new, and should not be perpetuated by our country's highest law enforcement officials."

The past glaring examples of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the 1942 Japanese

Internment Act, and the recent racial profiling of Dr. Wen Ho Lee, Sherry Chen and Dr. Xiaoxing Xi were part of America's shameful and discriminatory history - a history that should not be repeated.

It is simply wrong to cast an entire group of students, professors and scientists as a threat to our country based on where they are from. Our government leaders should not use racial profiling as a substitute for fair, honest, and thorough national security investigations.

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APAPA is a non-profit, non-partisan and grassroots organization. Its mission is to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Americans through education, leadership and active participation in civic and public affairs.

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