

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Resolution:
(NC-25)

Introduced by: Xianzhen (Jennifer) Deng, California Health Sciences University; Kimsa
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Subject: Support of Incarcerated AANHPI Health

Referred to: Resolutions Committee
(Xianzhen (Jennifer) Deng, Director of Organized Medicine)

Whereas, the United States has the largest population of incarcerated individuals at nearly 2 billion people;⁽¹⁾ and

Whereas, the vast majority of incarcerated AANHPI people are refugees who experienced unmet societal needs such as economic hardship or poverty growing up, emotional abuse, and physical violence, which lead to their current incarcerated status;⁽²⁾ and

Whereas, due to poor data collection, accurate demographic data regarding incarcerated AANHPI people exist;⁽²⁾ and

Whereas, certain incarcerated AANHPI subgroups reported having one or more medical conditions at a rate of 79.4% compared to 40% of incarcerated people in state prisons;⁽²⁾ and

Whereas, 27.97% of incarcerated AANHPI individuals report being misdiagnosed and 23.73% report having a medical condition that is ignored by staff;⁽²⁾ and

Whereas, COVID-19 disproportionately impacted incarcerated individuals as a result of not employing implementing protective measures such as quarantining, leading to death rates six times higher than that in the general public;⁽³⁾ and

Whereas, incarcerated individuals experience unique health disparities compared to the general public including increased rates of infectious diseases, mental health conditions, and lifetime risk of chronic conditions;^(4, 5, 6) and

Whereas, incarcerated individuals experience medical neglect and have access to subpar mental and medical healthcare to the level of which over half of all state prison systems have been court-ordered to improve care⁽⁷⁾ and

Whereas, incarcerated individuals are unable to evacuate and take protective measures and are at the discretion of the prison administration with regards to safe evacuation during natural disasters, often being left behind such as during Hurricane Helene when inmates had to endure four days of flooded waters up to their chest before being evacuated and Hurricane Milton despite being located in a mandatory evacuation zone^(8, 9, 10, 11) and

Whereas, failure to evacuate and protect incarcerated individuals during natural disasters is a violation of their eighth amendment right against cruel and unusual punishment and basic human rights;⁽¹²⁾ therefore it be

RESOLVED, That APAMSA will support efforts to increase data collection and research regarding incarcerated AANHPI experiences; and be it further

RESOLVED, That APAMSA recognizes incarcerated individuals as a key demographic within AANHPI communities that face unique health disparities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That APAMSA advocates for the safe evacuation of incarcerated individuals who are at risk of facing natural disasters and epidemics; and be it further

RESOLVED, That APAMSA advocates for incarcerated individuals to have access to quality healthcare and their medical needs met.

References:

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