

To Gov. Inslee:

My name is Xiaowan Wu, I am a Seattle resident as well as a member of the Chinese community . I'm writing to represent the opinion of a group of citizens of the Chinese community regarding the speech given by Governor Inslee on Monday March 22nd. We acknowledge and appreciate the governor's support and stance against racism directed toward the Asian community. After listening to his speech, I was confused and off put when he stated "This was not a Chinese virus of COVID, it is a virus of hate and fear that too often has been fanned by some political figures for political purposes;" particularly the association of a nationality with the COVID virus. It goes without saying that biological pathogens, much like all the living world, does not belong to any nation nor are they bound to political borders.

As Chinese Americans, it hurts our feelings deeply to hear "Chinese virus of COVID" in any form of speech, even if used in this juxtaposition to draw light to how terms can be used insidiously. I do not believe the governor should have used this term particularly given that it was propagated by the former president for political purposes. President Biden had indicated clearly in the Executive Order issued on January 26 that federal workers shall demonstrate sensitivity towards the AAPI community in their COVID-19 responses. I feel that it is highly inappropriate to use this term in his speech supporting the Asian community against racism, particularly given the former president's problematic usage of the term to incite anti-Chinese sentiment. The usage of this term, even if intended to show solidarity, could lead to confusion, and obfuscate the defensive position of the speech. Given the problematic nature of the expression, we believe that Governor Inslee should stand with our diverse community and clarify his position on the matter. A statement ought to be released dissociating "Chinese" or "China" with the COVID virus and a conscious effort ought to be made to avoid conflating such terms in the future.

Sincerely,

Xiaowan Wu

## Please Sign Here:

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