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A RESOLUTION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE RELATING TO PROTECTING BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

WHEREAS, given historic and continued attacks on sexual and reproductive health access and rights at the federal level and in many states, including more than 420 abortion restrictions since 2011¹, it is critical every that individual have a fundamental right to make personal reproductive health decisions free from coercion, discrimination, and stigma;

WHEREAS, all branches of its government have a critical role to play in supporting the provision of comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including the full range of evidence-based information and counseling and quality healthcare services and education free from interference, discrimination, and unnecessary barriers; and

WHEREAS, people must be able to make their own health care decisions with the advice of health care professionals they trust and without government interference or fear of prosecution, including for people who are under state control or supervision, such as those who are incarcerated or living in state-funded institutions; and

WHEREAS, the impact of restrictions on health care access including abortion restrictions is predominantly felt by those who already experience barriers to health care, including young people, people of color and those with disabilities, people with low incomes, and people who live in rural areas or are undocumented; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic disparities in health care exist in every state and are exacerbated by policies that block access to the full range of reproductive health services.²

WHEREAS, for Asian and Pacific islander communities, cancer is the leading cause of death; cervical cancer incidence rates are higher in several asian-american, native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroups than in non-hispanic whites; the incidence rate is twice as high in cambodians than in non-hispanic whites, and 40 percent higher among Vietnamese women;³ and

WHEREAS, one in five Asians living with HIV in the United States and do not know they have it;⁴ and

¹ Elizabeth Nash, et al., *Policy Trends 2018: With Roe v Wade in Jeopardy, States Continued to Add New Abortion Restrictions*, Guttmacher Inst. (Jan. 2019), <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2018/12/state-policy-trends-2018-roe-v-wade-jeopardy-states-continued-add-new-abortion>.

² Kaiser Family Foundation, *Putting Women's Health Care Disparities on the Map 99–101* (2009), available at <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7886.pdf>.

³ American Cancer Society, *Facts & Figures Report: Cancer Rates Vary Widely Among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders* (Jan. 2016) <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/facts-figures-report-cancer-rates-vary-widely-among-asian-americans-native-hawaiians-and-pacific-islanders.html>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV and Asians* (May 2019) <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/asians/index.html>

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WHEREAS, one in seven Asian immigrants is undocumented, making health care options more limited;⁵ and

WHEREAS, for LGBTQ Asian and Pacific Islanders, added barriers of homophobia and transphobia can result in medical discrimination, financial constraints that bar access to private insurance, limited culturally competent providers, and even violence at the hands of medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, women of color experience disparities across a range of reproductive health outcomes, including infant and maternal mortality, unintended pregnancies, and preventive care.⁶

WHEREAS, proactively safeguarding the right to contraception and abortion will protect and show respect for women's health and safety, as well as the wellbeing of all people.

WHEREAS, many of the gains women have made in obtaining education, pursuing careers, and reducing the pay equity gap are the direct result of increased access to birth control and a woman's ability to access safe and legal abortion when she needs it is a critical component of her health and dignity, as well as independence, freedom, and equality; and

WHEREAS, women who live in states with policies that support women's access to health care have higher earnings and are more integrated into the workforce than women in other states;⁷ access to reproductive health care has been linked to reduced unemployment gaps between jobs;⁸ and

WHEREAS, women's ability to access contraception, as well as safe and legal abortion, allows women to participate fully in society and have greater determination over the timing and spacing of their children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance advocate for policies that protect and expand critical and life-saving health care services to women, men, and teens in our communities and throughout the United States.

⁵Data Bits (Sept.2017) <http://aapidata.com/blog/asian-undoc-1in7/>

⁶ Ngozi Anachebe & Madeline Sutton, *Racial Disparities in Reproductive Health Outcomes*, 188 Am. J. Obstetrics Gynecology S37 (2003).

⁷ Kate Bahn et al. , Linking Reproductive Health Care Access to Labor Market Opportunities for Women, Ctr. for Am. Progress (2017), available at

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2017/11/21/442653/linking-reproductive-health-care-access-labor-market-opportunities-women/> (finding that "women living in states with a better reproductive health care climate—including insurance coverage of contraceptive drugs and services; expanded Medicaid eligibility for family-planning services; insurance coverage of infertility treatments; and the availability of state-supported public funding for medically necessary abortions—have higher earnings and face less occupational segregation compared with women living in states that have more limited reproductive health care access").

⁸ Kate Bahn et al.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NOW, by the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance calls on all chapters to raise awareness to its members and the broader API community to drive organized, meaningful action to protect reproductive healthcare in this country.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance commitment to supporting this mission.

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