



CITIZENSHIP DAY MOBILIZATION 2009

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Dear friend:

America is at a political crossroads during one of the most difficult economic times in decades, stemming from the pursuit of short-sighted economic policies that led to prosperity for the few rather than the creation of systems change designed to improve the quality of life for all Americans. But as history has taught us, periods of tremendous hardships and instability can pave the road for change and right now the signs of change are before us - from a new Congress and administration in the White House to the emergence of a newly engaged and responsible community that we hope will be able to come together on Citizenship Day.

Citizenship Day falls on September 17, a strategic time during the legislative and policy debate in Congress for immigration reform and health reform - two issues of importance for America. For this reason, we invite you to join us for “Unity in Movement: 2009 National Mobilization for Citizenship Day.” Initiated by NAKASEC and our affiliates, the Korean American Resource & Cultural Center of Chicago and the Korean Resource Center of Los Angeles, the event is sponsored by the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, Health Rights Organizing Project, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. It is an opportunity for all Americans, young and old, first and second generation, to walk the halls of Congress with a united voice for social change.

In this two-day event, you will participate in trainings, Congressional briefings and legislative visits and a cultural performance in Washington, D.C. Lastly you will be invited to attend NAKASEC’s 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser to be held in D.C that evening.

Included in this letter you will find the registration form as well as frequently-asked-questions and fact sheets on the two issues being highlighted in the mobilization: healthcare reform, immigration reform. Please return the registration form by August 7, 2009. You can send them to HyunJoo Lee via email: [hlee@nakasec.org](mailto:hlee@nakasec.org), fax: 323-937-3753, or mail: 900 S. Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please call HyunJoo Lee with the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium at 323-937-3703, ext. 202 or email at [hlee@nakasec.org](mailto:hlee@nakasec.org). We look forward to your participation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

EunSook Lee  
Executive Director  
NAKASEC

Becky Belcore  
Executive Director  
KRCC

Dae Joong Yoon  
Executive Director  
KRC



## **-FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-**

### **1. What is Citizenship Day?**

Citizenship is a federally recognized holiday that falls on September 17<sup>th</sup>. It marks the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Passed in 2004, this is one of the newest federal holidays to be established by Congress. However, the roots of Citizenship Day stretch much farther back beginning in 1940 when “I Am An American Day” was initiated by Congress.

### **3. What is this convening to celebrate Citizenship Day in Washington D.C.?**

This national strategic mobilization unites Americans from throughout the U.S. in order to fulfill their social responsibility and engage with legislators around important issues. Participants will learn and advocate for healthcare and immigration reform for example, sharing their stories and meeting with their members of Congress.

The schedule for the 2 nights, 2 days program is as follows:

#### ***Wednesday, September 16, 2009 (arrival in early evening to kick start dinner program)***

- Delegates and other participants will be able to network and deepen relationships and participate in trainings on advocacy and communications. These trainings should supplement pre-training that would have been sent to delegates in the months leading up to the day and serve as a final refreshers on conducting legislative visits and communicating a message.

#### ***Thursday, September 17, 2009 (full day)***

- Community Forum inviting Members of Congress and the Obama Administration
- Legislative visits to Congressional members and Obama administration staff
- Celebratory public event in front of Congress or the White House; and
- NAKASEC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

#### ***Friday, September 18, 2009 (anticipated lunchtime departure)***

- Evaluation and Reflections
- Post-event planning

### **3. What is the purpose of Citizenship Day?**

This gathering of Americans affirms our unity to promote and win policies that uplift all of us, but is a culmination of a greater effort to educate and organize for sustainable change and long term civic engagement. There is great expectation legislation on health reform and immigration reform may pass this year. Already there has been tremendous build-up and by September, the heart of the policy debates is expected to occur. We want to be there at that time to be heard and to weigh in.

The issues spotlight, immigration reform and health reform address different systemic problems and require our demonstration of the political gravitas to be heard in the debate. This is why we need the generate national support from all of America --- not just the big states or the urban

states, big states or immigrant concentrated states --- but deep and wide participation from all throughout America.

By bringing together immigrant and non immigrants from all walks of life and faith traditions we are projecting the view that change in America is good for all of us and for strengthening America - from the economy to its cultural vibrancy and political dynamism.

#### **4. Who can participate?**

We are mobilizing Americans from throughout the 50 states; all are invited. We particularly encourage those in our community who are civically engaged and performing community service, whether it's in your community, school, church, or temple, to register.

#### **5. What are the costs?**

Participants are asked to pay a \$250 registration fee which covers airfare, lodging for 2 nights, and 6 meals. Limited scholarships are available. Local participants may choose to commute rather than stay at the hotel, but participation in the entire program is highly recommended.

#### **6. I am interested in participating. What do I have to do to attend the event?**

You can download the registration form at [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org). All registration forms are due by August 7, 2009.

#### **7. How can organizations support this event?**

Community based organizations can get involved in a number of ways: send a representative to participate in Citizenship Day, organize a community workshop on the issues of immigration reform and healthcare reform, and outreach to local media outlets and other local organizations about the event.

#### **8. Who is organizing the event?**

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) - was founded in 1994 by local community centers to project a national progressive voice and promote the full participate of Korean Americans and build a national movement for social change. NAKASEC is based in Los Angeles and a D.C. office opened in September 2008. NAKASEC also has affiliates in Los Angeles (The Korean Resource Center) and in Chicago (The Korean American Resource & Cultural Center). Over the last 15 years, NAKASEC and its affiliates have formed a strong and unique network that forwards a holistic empowerment model. Our affiliates provide programs in education, social services, culture, civic engagement and organizing that address the full human & political needs of community members. NAKASEC develops sound and informed policy advocacy goals, produces relevant educational products and coordinates results oriented national grassroots campaigns that are informed by its participation in national strategy formations and directed by the leadership of our affiliates. Please visit our websites: [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org), [www.krcla.org](http://www.krcla.org), and [www.chicagokrcc.org](http://www.chicagokrcc.org).

#### Supporting Organizations

*Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)* – was founded in 1968 to honor the life and values of Robert F. Kennedy and is one of the longest-standing champions for low-income people and communities of color. The Center for Community Change strengthens, connects and mobilizes grassroots groups to enhance their leadership, voice and power. We believe that vibrant community-based organizations, led by the people most affected by social and economic injustice, are key to putting an end to the failed "on your own" mentality of the right and building a new politics based on community values.

*Health Rights Organizing Project (HROP)* – believes that health care is a right, and everyone should have access to comprehensive health coverage. Person by person, state by state, the Health Rights Organizing Project is working toward this vision. Partner organizations include: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, Center for Community Change, Idaho Community Action Network, Washington Community Action Network, Maine People’s Alliance, Ocean State Action, and the California Partnership.

*National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)* - is the first national advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the community development needs of diverse and rapidly growing AAPI communities. We are a membership-based network of more than 100 organizations and individuals in 17 states that serve Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, refugees and immigrants nationwide. Our members use innovative affordable housing, community development, organizing and planning strategies to improve the well-being of low-income AAPI communities.

*Southeast Asia Resource Center (SEARAC)* - is a national organization advancing the interests of [Cambodian](#), [Laotian](#), and [Vietnamese](#) Americans through leadership development, capacity building, and community empowerment. We were founded in 1979 as the Indochina Refugee Action Center (IRAC) to facilitate the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees into American society and foster the development of nonprofit organizations led by and for Southeast Asian Americans. We serve as a coalition-builder and leader, carry out action-oriented research projects, and strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations such as mutual assistance associations (MAAs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs). We also foster civic engagement among Southeast Asian Americans, and represent our communities at the national level in Washington, DC.

**9. Who can I contact to get more information?**

Please contact HyunJoo Lee at NAKASEC with any questions or concerns via email - [hlee@nakasec.org](mailto:hlee@nakasec.org) - or phone - 323-937-3703 x 202. You can also visit [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org).

**- REGISTRATION FORM -**



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NAKASEC and its affiliates are convening a **historic Citizenship Day event from September 16 – 18<sup>th</sup>**, a culmination of a greater effort to educate and organize for sustainable change and long term civic engagement that will bring together all Americans from throughout the U.S. The purpose of this event is to address issues such as immigration reform and health reform at a time when there is great expectation of that relevant legislation may pass this year, and affirm our unity to promote and win policies that uplift us all.

Join us for this historic event by filling out this registration form and sending it to: HyunJoo Lee via fax: 323-937-3753, email: hlee@nakasec.org, or mail: 900 S. Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90019 by August 7, 2009.

**Wednesday, 9/16 (PM)**

- \*Dinner/socializing
  - \*Training sessions
- Location: TBA**

**Thursday, 9/17 (All day)**

- \*Congressional briefing
  - \*Cultural performance
  - \*Legislative visits
  - \*NAKASEC fundraiser
- Location: TBA**

**Friday, 9/18 (AM)**

- \*Evaluation, post-event
- Location: TBA**

**General Information**

Name:		Name (Korean):		Age:	
Organization (if any):			Position/Title:		
Address:		City:	State:	Zip:	
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:		Email:	

**Emergency Contact Info**

Name:	Relation:	Phone:
Name:	Relation:	Phone:

**Event Related Information**

I need lodging ( <i>Please Circle &amp; Check</i> ): Yes    No ___ Tuesday (for West Coast participants only) ___ Wednesday ___ Thursday	Meal Preference ( <i>Please Circle</i> ): Vegetarian    None
Translation Needs ( <i>State language</i> ): <input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box if you are bilingual and are available to translate and/or interpret during the event	
Please write any other needs you may have ( <i>ie. health, mobility</i> ):	

## Travel Arrangements

<p><b>Please read and initial the following:</b> I understand that the following is the travel itinerary for Citizenship Day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wednesday morning, September 16th, depart my home city to arrive to D.C. by 4PM.</li> <li>2. Friday afternoon, September 19th, Depart D.C. to my home city.</li> </ol> <p>Initials: _____</p>	<p><b>If you would like to change your departure date from D.C. to your home city, please fill out the information below:</b> Preferred D.C. departure date: ___/___/___</p> <p>Please choose:          ___ Morning          ___ Afternoon          ___ Evening</p>
<p><b>Please read and initial the following:</b> I understand that NAKASEC is purchasing my airplane ticket according to the itinerary described above. However, if I choose to change my travel dates after the ticket as been purchased, I will be responsible to pall all penalties and costs. Furthermore, I understand that NAKASEC is only providing lodging for the evenings of September 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>; I will arrange and pay for all additional lodging needs.</p> <p>Initials: _____</p>	



## Registration Payment

The registration fee of \$250 is due August 7, 2009, along with your registration form. The fee covers transportation to Washington D.C., 2 nights lodging and 6 meals.

- Enclosed is my check for \$250 made payable to NAKASEC  
 Please charge my credit card  
 Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard / American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to NAKASEC at 900 S. Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90019 or fax: 323-937-3753 or email: hlee@nakasec.org



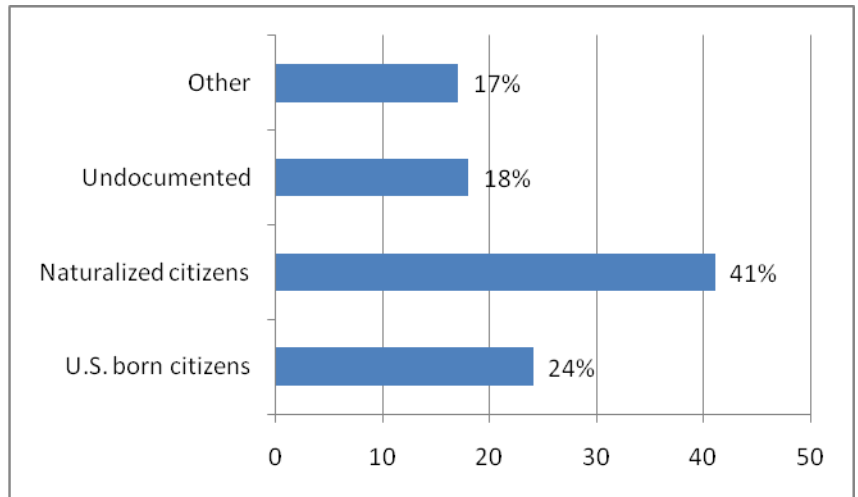
## Korean Americans and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On December 22, 1902, the first group of Korean immigrants arrived in Hawaii to work as laborers on sugar plantations. Since then, Korean Americans have grown to become the fifth largest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) ethnic community living in the United States. 76% of Korean Americans are immigrants and 51% entered after 1990. Now more than ever, immigration reform is needed to improve the lives of all Americans.

### Why comprehensive immigration reform works

*Path to Citizenship* - The Korean American community numbers 1.34 million; 1 out of 5 is undocumented. AAPIs make up approximately 10% of the total undocumented population.

*Keep Families Together* - Family and employment immigration are the two primary means of entry to the U.S. for Korean Americans. Close to 77,000 are caught in the backlogs, many waiting decades to bring family members into the country.



*Protect Workers' Rights* - As a predominantly immigrant work force with a significant population that are limited English proficient, the protection of rights for workers and employers is fundamental. It is estimated that 18.8 million (14%) of the U.S. workforce are immigrants, and 4.9 million (26%) of them are from Asia. One-third of all Korean American families are work in or operate a small business.

*Equal Opportunity for All Youth* - Every year, 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school unable to realize their potential and fully participate in American society. Accurate counts of the Korean American undocumented youth population are not available. What is known is that 24% of Korean Americans are under the age of 18, 60% of Korean American youth are U.S. born citizens, and 18% of the total population is undocumented.

*Due Process* - Basic due process rights and civil liberties to individuals are important for Korean Americans. AAPIs account for about 2% of total deportations and detention and, as a racial minority they face additional and different challenges, such as language barriers, social isolation and lack of access to cultural competent treatment or services. AAPI detainees and their families have reported that they make choices without understanding their rights or have difficulty requesting medical attention because of the lack of language access.

*Promote Integration* - 469,991(36%) of Korean American are registered voters. Statistics show that when registered, Korean Americans demonstrate high rates of continued political participation. The Korean American citizen voting age population, according to the 2000 Census, is 529,692. That number is expected to increase tremendously, therefore representing the political potential of Korean Americans.

## **Our Solution: Korean American Principles for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

1. Bring millions of hard working undocumented immigrants and their children out of the shadows and provide them a path to citizenship.
2. Keep families together by preserving the family immigration system, eliminating the immigration backlogs, stopping mandatory and indefinite detentions and cruel deportations for minor infractions.
3. Protect all workers regardless of their immigration status.
4. Allow students to reach their full potential through access to college.
5. Protect and restore basic rights and liberties, including allowing every person to have their day in court.
6. Promote the social, economic, and political integration of immigrants.

## **Community Stories**

*Kannie Yoon*, an undocumented student, is an incredibly gifted young artist who studied at one of the top art institutions in the country. She came to the U.S. from Korea as a teenager and began working in her family's dry cleaning business to support her family. Despite language barriers, Kannie studied hard and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Because she is undocumented, she did not have access to financial aid or loans. Kannie and her family worked long hours and multiple jobs to pay for her tuition and expenses. Despite these hardships, Kannie was able to graduate. But without the opportunity to become gain full citizenship and contribute to society, how can she put that degree to work?

*Andrew Jung's* life turned upside down at the age of 15 years. Born in Toledo, Ohio to Young Jung, a volunteer librarian, and Dae Jung, a sushi chef, Andrew was a high school student at Emanuel Baptist. His parents came as a newlywed couple in 1984 from South Korea. However because of a document misfiling, they became undocumented. On Valentine's Day 2005, Toledo police along with the Department of Homeland Security came to their home and took Young away, leaving Dae to care for Andrew as a minor. While being moved to four different detention facilities, with each move unannounced to Andrew and Dae, Young's health began to deteriorate gravely. On August 11, 2005, his parents made the painful decision of leaving Andrew alone in the U.S. with family friends, and self-deported. A minor, with no other family in the United States, Andrew's parents signed away their parental rights and granted guardianship to the parents of his best friend since childhood. What national security threats do a volunteer librarian and a sushi chef pose? How is America made better with the forced removal of Young and Dae Jung?

## **What You Can Do**

1. Tell Members of Congress why this issue matters to you – write, call, or visit.
2. Join the FIRM Cell Phone Action Network. Type “5878423” (or “Justice”) to the phone number “69866.” After receiving a thank you message, reply with email address and zip code to get receive action alerts directly to your cell phone. You can expect only about 1-2 messages per/month.
3. Learn more about how immigration impacts you – sign up for our listserv or Facebook.
4. Join us for Citizenship Day Mobilization on September 17, 2009.

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The **National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)** was founded in 1994 by local community centers to project a national progressive voice and promote the full participation of Korean Americans as a part of a greater goal of building a national movement for social change. NAKASEC maintains its national office in Los Angeles and an office in Washington, D.C. NAKASEC also has affiliates in Los Angeles (The **Korean Resource Center**) and Chicago (The **Korean American Resource & Cultural Center**). NAKASEC is a member of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM), Reform Immigration for America Campaign, and the Rights Working Group. *For more information and resources*, visit [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org) or call 323.937.3703 / 202.339.9318.

# **Why Korean Americans Need Responsible Health Reform**

## **Achieving A Healthier Tomorrow Today**

Congress and the President are committed to fixing the health care system to guarantee quality, affordable health care for all Americans. All Americans refer to all people who have made their lives in the United States and share common values, volunteer, study, play sports, dance and raise a family.

## **Our Policy Goals**

The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), and its affiliates the Korean Resource Center (KRC) in Los Angeles and the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC) in Chicago prioritized three initiatives within national health reform legislation this year: 1) immigrant inclusion, 2) health equity for racial and ethnic populations, and 3) affordability through the creation of a public plan option in any new health insurance pool.

## **Our Community Stories**

### ***Language Barriers to Quality Health Care***

A limited English proficient Korean American senior was admitted to a hospital for complications related to kidney failure and diabetes. She developed an infection after breaking her arm and hip. She told hospital staff in Korean that she is in pain or “apah.” After ignoring several of her requests for a medical interpreter, the staff instead asked her limited English proficient husband to interpret the word “apah.” When he told them it meant pain, the staff made no attempt diagnose her condition and simply gave her painkillers each time she said “apah.” By the time they discovered the infection that was causing her pain, it had entered her bloodstream and spread to the rest of her body. Shortly before passing away she said, “I can’t speak English, but I should be thankful that they are treating me. She was unaware that her fatal condition was the result of the hospital staff’s failure to provide qualified medical interpretation.

### ***Poor Health Condition of Uninsured Korean Americans***

Physicians and medical students volunteer their time during KRC’s monthly second-opinion clinic and twice-annual health fairs, where uninsured patients receive free medical consultations and preventive health services. These volunteer physicians and medical students were surprised and deeply troubled by the alarming percentage of patients who were in poor health and suffered from chronic illnesses. Clearly, patients’ lack of health coverage created a significant gap in access to regular preventive health care services, forcing many to delay care due to costs. As a consequence, the illnesses of patients had reached advanced stages by the time they were treated at KRC.

## **Our Worsening Health**

These stories reveal the steadily worsening health of Korean Americans. Nationally, 26% of Korean Americans do not receive regular care [the number climbs to 48% among those uninsured], with only 26% of Korean Americans reporting to visit a regular doctor. Subsequently, Korean Americans are more susceptible to delayed care, the possibility of financial ruin, and even death in emergency rooms. Though breast, cervical and colon rectal cancer is common among Korean American women, screening practices are greatly underused. In California 53% of Korean American women aged 40 or older reported receiving a mammogram in the past two years, and only 50% aged 18 years and older have had a Pap Test according to the National Institutes of Health. The rates are even lower for colon rectal cancer screenings.

## **Key Factors In The Health Care Crisis Impacting Korean Americans**

Two key factors impact the ability of Korean Americans to receive preventive medical care and/or early diagnosis of illness—lack of health coverage and health inequity. Nationally, Korean Americans are known to have the highest uninsured rate of 52% among all ethnicities.<sup>1</sup> Several key factors contribute to this dismal statistic: immigration status, affordability, and lack of work-based health insurance programs. With regard to health inequity, Korean Americans are disproportionately impacted by the lack of health services that are culturally competent and linguistically appropriate.

**Immigration status:** According to the 2000 Census data, 71% of Korean Americans are immigrants and one in five Korean Americans are undocumented. Low-income undocumented immigrants do not have access to regular health care services and public health insurance programs, and more likely to be uninsured.

**Affordability:** Poverty and lower income have been correlated with high rates of death and disease while higher income has been correlated with better health status. Large disparities in income have been linked to lower life expectancy in cross-national comparisons as well as higher mortality and obesity rates at the state level. In 2005, the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum revealed that the per capita income for Korean Americans is \$18,027 compared to almost \$25,000 for the white population. The report also found that 14% live below the federal poverty level and 30% live below 200% of the federal poverty level compared to 8% and 22% for whites. In the same year, the California Health Interview Survey reported that the most common reason cited by Korean Americans for not having insurance is cost.

**Lack of work-based health insurance programs:** Among foreign-born Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), Korean Americans have the highest self-employment rate. Immigrant small business owners and employees often are concentrated in relatively low-skill service industries (i.e. restaurants, retail, groceries, beauty services, etc) established in ethnic enclaves. Most small businesses are less likely to offer health insurance coverage. Faced with a high employee turnover rate and low profits, health insurance coverage is forgone to keep overhead costs low. Thus, the 2005 Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum Survey found that only 48% of Korean Americans are insured through their employer, while 73% of their white counterparts have employment-based insurance.

**Cultural competency:** Cultural competency and the availability of culturally sensitive services also impact the Korean American community's access to health care. A nationwide survey of Korean Americans conducted by the Commonwealth Fund, found that: (1) Four in 10 respondents reported having great difficulty communicating with their physician with only 24% strongly agreeing that their doctor understands their background and values; (2) only 28% of Korean Americans were "very satisfied" with their health care; and (3) one out of 4 respondents reported having used acupuncture on a constant basis.

**Language access:** As a recent immigrant community, a vast majority of Korean Americans are limited English proficient (LEP) and about 41% are linguistically isolated. According to the 2005 Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum Survey, individuals who are LEP are less likely to be insured, and less likely to receive key preventive health measures, such as immunizations, mammograms and regular checkups.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commonwealth Fund (2001). *2001 Health Care Quality Survey*.

## **How Responsible Health Reform Will Work**

### ***A. Provide quality health care coverage for all people living in the United States, including legal and undocumented immigrants.***

Affordable health care for everyone in the U.S. is a necessity. We need a health care system where everyone contributes to the cost of medical care, and no one has to fear that one accident or illness will leave them unable to care for themselves or their families. By removing barriers to health care, we can create healthy communities and opportunities for individuals to seek preventive care and live healthier lives. Within this context, undocumented immigrants must be included in any health reform proposal. According to a recent RAND study undocumented immigrants are more likely to be uninsured than are any other group; “[to] have a meaningful impact on the problem of the uninsured, then you must talk about undocumented immigrants.”<sup>2</sup>

### ***B. Improve equity in health care access, treatment, research and resources to people and communities of color, resulting in the elimination of racial disparities in health outcomes and real improvement in health and life expectancy for all.***

To ensure effective communication between consumers and providers and prevent medical errors that cost lives and money, culturally-competent and linguistically appropriate services must be guaranteed as a covered service, financially supported, and accessible to patients who are limited-English proficient. Appropriate standards must be developed and training must be appropriate in both content and setting. In addition, concrete strategies must be developed and supported to address chronic shortages in the spectrum of health professionals for communities of color and immigrants. Pipeline incentives as well as reimbursement reform must be aimed at training, attracting, supporting and retaining a diverse, culturally competent workforce. Finally, a robust public health system, at a minimum, invests in health planning, undertakes prevention strategies, conducts disease surveillance and management, increases health literacy, and fosters a health care safety net through community health care workers and clinics.

### ***C. The option between a private health insurance plan, including keeping the insurance of one’s choice, or a public insurance plan without a private insurer middleman that guarantees affordable coverage.***

Narrowing disparities in health outcomes requires a truly affordable benefit package that provides a defined, comprehensive set of age-appropriate and gender-appropriate services to maintain or promote health and function and to prevent or treat illness and injury. Whether through public or private plans, coverage must be backed by adequate reimbursements and incentives to promote provider participation and robust provider networks to ensure meaningful access to services in communities of color and among immigrant communities.

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<sup>2</sup> “RAND Study Finds Undocumented Immigrants Are Most Likely to Be Uninsured,” Press Release, November 10, 2005.

## **Help Make History and Be a Part of the Movement for Responsible Health Reform**

Immigrants and communities of color are representing increasingly important voices in the national health reform debate and movement. AAPIs and multiracial groups are amongst the fastest growing populations. A record number of immigrant voters turned out for the last presidential election --- representing a growing formidable and influential voting bloc. For these voters, providing health care to everyone regardless of immigration status is a priority according to the Asian American Legal Defense Education Fund's 2008 exit poll. Moreover, anti-immigrant sentiments have not proven to winning platforms for candidates as the 2008 elections have shown. Voters overall are rejecting the politics of division and exclusion and reflect a new movement that embraces the principles of inclusion and unity.

Be a part of history by demanding the inclusion of all Americans regardless of immigration status to strengthen our communities and give everyone an opportunity to contribute to a healthier tomorrow today.

### **What You Can Do**

- Make a visit to your legislator – go online to [www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org) or call NAKASEC for resources and assistance.
- Speak up for communities of color and immigrant communities in health reform– make sure that health disparities, including language access, and social, environmental and economic factors are taken into account.
- Learn about the importance of a public plan option in any new health insurance pool that is created for individuals and people who do not qualify for health insurance through their employers or publicly-funded programs. Sign on to the ten principles of comprehensive health care reform at the Healthcare for America Now (HCAN) website [www.healthcareforamericanow.com](http://www.healthcareforamericanow.com).
- To find out how you can make the promise of health care for all a reality or to share your thoughts and experience with KRC's and NAKASEC's healthcare campaign– set up an appointment with Carol (323) 937-3703 ext. 200 or Hemi (202) 339-9318.

### **About Us**

The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) was founded in 1994 by local community centers to project a national progressive voice and promote the full participation of Korean Americans; as a part of a greater goal of building a national movement for social change. NAKASEC maintains its national office in Los Angeles and an office in Washington, D.C. NAKASEC also has affiliates in Los Angeles (The Korean Resource Center) and Chicago (The Korean American Resource & Cultural Center). NAKASEC sits on the policy, legislative and field committees of the Health Care for America Now campaign and serves on the steering committee of the Health Rights Organizing Project, which led the national campaign to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, increasing access to healthcare for legal immigrant children and pregnant women.