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OAAPI Holds First-Ever Legislative Day At Ohio Statehouse

COLUMBUS – Asian American civic leaders and community members from across the state, led by a coalition of organization, groups and associations, will hold the first ever Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander (OAAPI) Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse on June 8, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium, 1 Capitol Square.

An older legal Asian immigrant couple are completely left out of the social safety net after the husband develops a terminal illness.

A troubled, young Asian student with poor English struggles with mental illness. He falters in school, until his parents find a graduate student who speaks the boy's native language to help him.

These stories underscore a few of the major issues – civil rights, health, economic development and cultural arts and education – that Asian American faith and civic leaders, community members, young and old, will bring before legislators in an effort to connect their communities directly to elected officials.

Kiran Ahuja, the executive director for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, has been invited to give the keynote speech. State Sen. Ray Miller (D-Columbus) as well as other key state leaders will also attend the event.

A coalition of Asian Americans, representing civic leaders from Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Akron, Toledo and Cincinnati, formed in 2002 to educate Ohio's residents and elected officials about the people, beliefs and concerns that make up the Asian American community.

"Asian Americans are very heterogeneous, and this is an opportunity for us to inform the legislators of our state to our unique issues and concerns in areas ranging from immigration to health care," said Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, President of the Asian Coalition.

This historic event expects to draw several hundred attendees and will showcase the tremendous contributions Asian Americans have made in the state of Ohio and inform lawmakers on the unique issues facing the Asian community.

The event will also give community leaders and event participants a chance to gain a better understanding of the legislative process. Meetings with state legislators will take place between 1:30 and 3 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium.

Members of the OAAPI community directly affected by the four major issues part of this Legislative Day will be available for interviews. Participants who are interested in attending can visit [AAPI Legislative Day Info](#) to register. **Deadline is May 24th**.

Acclaim Home Health Services, Inc
Asian American Community Services
Asian American Council (Dayton)
Asian American Youth Council of Dayton (AAYCD)
Asian Community Alliance
Asian Festival Corporation
Asian Services In Action
Asian Student Association, Wright State University
Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center, Wright State University
Asian-American Community Services Council
Assoc. of Asian Indian Women in Ohio
Bazm-E-Adab
Chinese Association of Greater Toledo
Dayton Area Korean Association
Federation of Indian Community Association of Central Ohio
Federation of Indian Community Associations
Greater Dayton Chinese School
Health Care Management Network - University of Findlay
Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Indian Chamber of Commerce
Japanese American Citizens League, Dayton Chapter
Jhankar, Inc
MotivAsian
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Organization of Chinese Americans - Columbus Chapter
Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Cleveland
Owner Land Realty
Philippine American Society of Central Ohio
Philippine Nurses Assoc. of Central Ohio
Philippine Nurses Assoc. of Ohio
Refugee Response
Salaam Cleveland
Sikh Society of Greater Dayton
Vietnamese Association of Greater Dayton
Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Greater Dayton
Yellow Lite