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**Catalina Chang**

29 April 2021

**The Honorable Matt Robinson**

Texas State Board of Education  
313 FM 517 West  
Dickinson, TX 77539

Dear Dr. Robinson,

I have been very fortunate to be a constituent of District 7, where I received extensive education within Fort Bend ISD. However, in light of the recent attack on the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community, I implore you to advocate for the greater inclusion of Asian American History into the K12 curriculum.

In a time as revolutionary as now, I believe that it will be beneficial for the community to see that you are a forward-looking individual and an ally to the large AAPI population that resides in your district. According to District Population Data from the 2010 United States Census, Asians make up 54.6% of District 7<sup>1</sup>. As our representative, it is vital that you do not remain stagnant in a time for movement. Citizens of this community should feel that they are not being neglected, that what we do today will be remembered by the generations that follow.

The common argument that many non-supporters believe is that: Asians do not experience racism. That we are a model minority, who have reaped and sowed the benefits of living in “your country.” This is far from the truth. The Page Act of 1875, where Chinese women were banned from immigrating, is just one example of our country’s long historical systemic oppression of Asians. This History, however, consistently fails to be taught to our children and consequently births ignorance and indifference in our future. A study done in 2021 by the Pew Research Survey<sup>2</sup> has found that “45% of Asian adults say they have experienced at least one of five specific offensive incidents since the start of the coronavirus outbreak.” The lack of support and origin of these hate crimes stem from the erasure of Asian American History in education. I urge you to recognize that ignoring our past invalidates the struggles that AAPI experiences, which feeds into the oppression and marginalization of Asians that our education denies.

I urge you to develop our districts’ social studies standards further to include AAPI History. The few taught milestones, such as America’s Japanese internment camps, only barely scratch the surface of our ordeal. As our representative, it is time for you to demand our representation.

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Sincerely,

**Catalina Chang**

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<sup>1</sup> Ruiz, Neil G., et al. "One-Third of Asian Americans Fear Threats, Physical Attacks and Most Say Violence against Them Is Rising." *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 21 Apr. 2021, [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/21/one-third-of-asian-americans-fear-threats-physical-attacks-and-most-say-violence-against-them-is-rising/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/21/one-third-of-asian-americans-fear-threats-physical-attacks-and-most-say-violence-against-them-is-rising/).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "District Population Analysis with School District Subtotals. 2010" Social Explorer. Web. Jan 11 10:43 EST 2019.