



Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the USA, Inc.

미한국상공회의소

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April 6 , 2021

*The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500*

Dear Mr. President:

We join with other organizations representing the Asian American community in strongly denouncing the growing violence, hatred, and hostility against Asian Americans. We were especially horrified at the recent mass shooting by a perpetrator at three spas in the Atlanta, Georgia, area where four of the eight victims were of Korean ethnicity, including a citizen of the Republic of Korea. We applaud your initiatives to respond to anti-Asian violence, xenophobia, and bias in this country.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the USA (KOCHAM), founded in 1992, is an association that represents approximately 360 Korean companies with a presence in the U.S. that directly employs more than 74,000 Americans. Our member companies include many global companies such as Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor America, Kia Motors America, LG Electronics, SK Innovation, Doosan, Hankook Tires, POSCO America, and Hanwha. Korean companies have dramatically increased their investments in the U.S. during the past decade by nearly 300 percent to reach a record \$61.8 billion in 2019. South Korea is now one of the 15 largest investors in the United States. Korea is also America's sixth largest trading partner, ahead of the United Kingdom and France. Prior to the pandemic, South Korea was one of America's largest sources of international visitors and exchange students. The United States and South Korea are also long-standing strategic allies that have stood as a beacon of light for freedom and democracy for over 65 years. Apparently, both countries have deeply integrated economic, personal, and strategic ties that go back to the first significant wave of Korean immigrants who came to America's shores in 1903.

Presently, there are an estimated 1.9 million U.S. residents of Korean descent. Most Korean immigrants arrived in the U.S. during the last 50 years, contributing greatly to America's success across multiple fields. According to a recent McKinsey & Company report, Korean Americans and other Asian Americans are disproportionately employed in high-contact essential jobs that expose them to greater health risks because of the COVID-19 virus. Korean and other Asian American businesses are also overrepresented in industries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, such as the restaurant and retail sectors. Yet, despite these immense sacrifices, the pandemic has exacerbated anti-Asian xenophobia and racism that has resulted in a nearly 150 percent increase in hate-crimes against Asian Americans in 2020.

This must stop. We commend your March 30th action plan, and hope that your Administration will follow through on these commitments to prevent further violations of the civil rights of Asian Americans. We respectfully request that your Administration exercise its power to immediately implement appropriate regulations to protect the Asian American community from hate crimes.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours



*Mr. Thomas (Tae Bong) Yoon,
Chairman of Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the USA*

*cc: Vice President Kamala Harris
Governor Andrew Cuomo (NY)
Governor Phil Murphy (NJ)
Governor Brian Kemp (GA)
Korea Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Ami Bera (CA-7th)
Korea Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Gerald Connolly (VA-11th)
Korea Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Mike Kelly (PA-16th)
Korea Caucus Co-Chair, Representative Joe Wilson (SC-2nd)
Representative Andy Kim (NJ-3rd)
Representative Young Kim (CA-39th)
Representative Michelle Steel (CA-48th)
Representative Marilyn Strickland (WA-10th)
Laura Shin, Acting Director of the White House Initiative on AAPI
Rohini Kosoglu, Domestic Policy Advisor, Office of the Vice President*