



HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION

Adopted July 29, 2005

WHEREAS the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, and political belief, economic or social condition;

WHEREAS health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity;

WHEREAS governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures;

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders suffer disparities in health and health care when compared to the general population;

WHEREAS 1 out of 5 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders do not have health insurance (compared to 14% for the white population);

WHEREAS those without health insurance tend to go without care for serious medical conditions and do not even get routine or preventive care;

WHEREAS disparities in healthcare still occur for the 80% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who do have insurance;

WHEREAS cultural and linguistic competence is necessary for the provision of quality care;

WHEREAS there is very little research to document the health conditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

WHEREAS the research that does exist often excludes Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, especially if they do not speak English;

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experience higher rates of hepatitis B, certain types of cancers, diabetes and tuberculosis;

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experience higher rates of depression and suicide, some cancers (prostate, colorectal, nasopharyngeal, liver), and deaths from breast cancer;

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders use mental health services and health screening services at a lower rate than the general population;

WHEREAS APIA communities and community-based organizations must be a part of the healthcare system;

WHEREAS more resources should go into developing community-based research and health promotion/disease prevention programs;

WHEREAS health is necessary to participate in and contribute to in America's political, social and economic arenas.

WHEREAS 36% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are limited English proficient (or "LEP", that is, they speak English less than "very well");

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: OCA supports universal affordable access to healthcare for all. OCA supports efforts to improve quality of care through programs and policies that encourage a diverse and culturally competent workforce in medical schools, research institutions and health care institutions, OCA supports efforts to improve quality of care through interpretation and translation services for those who are Limited English Proficient, OCA supports increased research and improved data collection on the health and healthcare needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT: OCA supports increased investment in community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs.

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.