

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich  
Office of the Attorney General  
Phoenix Office  
2005 N Central Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2926

Dear Attorney General Brnovich,

We are writing to you as residents of Arizona to urge you to use your role as the state's chief law officer to speak out against anti-Asian/American racism, xenophobia and violence. We also ask that you publicly challenge any political attempts to label COVID-19 a "Chinese virus" or "Wuhan virus", because of the effects this association has on everyday lives of Asian Americans in Arizona and in the United States.

Media research shows that xenophobic and scientifically incorrect rhetoric in political statements and media representations about the Chinese/Asian origins and Asian transmission of COVID-19 have fueled the rise of racist discrimination against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals and communities in the past few months. There have been more than 650 direct reports of racist and xenophobic incidents against Asian Americans in about one week (from March 18 to March 26) according to the online reporting forum Stop AAPI Hate, organized by Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council. An Asian American family was attacked in public space in Texas where three of the family members were stabbed for "being Chinese and spreading the coronavirus", which was deemed as a hate crime by FBI on April 1, 2020.

The scapegoating of Asian Americans potentially may negatively affect their health as well. Many Asian Americans, especially recent Asian immigrants and elders, are reporting fear and hesitance in seeking proper medical care with the rise of hate crimes against Asian Americans.

Arizona is a home for many Asian Americans where we have experienced substantial growth in Asian American population since 2000. As the son of an immigrant mother, we hope that you will recognize the particular vulnerability of Asian immigrants in Arizona right now. Irrational scapegoating based in fear and racial prejudice will further undermine social cohesion and health at a time when social cooperation in slowing down the transmission of the virus is critical.

We ask that you help to educate the public that Asian Americans are not more likely to be carriers of COVID-19 than any other American or Arizonan, and help to distinguish the acts of the Chinese government from individuals of Asian descent who reside in Arizona.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,