



November 18, 2021

Chairman Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jim Jordan
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter for the Record for House Judiciary Committee's Hearing, "The Texas Abortion Ban and Its Devastating Impact on Communities and Families."

Dear Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, and Members of the Committee:

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) submits this letter for the record for the House Judiciary Committee's November 4, 2021 hearing, "The Texas Abortion Ban and Its Devastating Impact on Communities and Families."

[NAPAWF](#) is the only national organization dedicated to building power with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women and girls and is mobilizing the AAPI community in Texas to fight back against abortion restrictions. NAPAWF gives voice to issues central to AAPI women and girls and is fighting to make sure AAPI women have access to reproductive health care, including abortion.

S.B. 8 is Devastating for AAPI Women

As long as Texas Senate Bill (S.B.) 8 remains in effect, it will further isolate low-income and immigrant AAPIs by making abortion care unaffordable and out of reach, compounded by existing economic and legal barriers.

S.B. 8 disproportionately impacts low-income persons, immigrants, and people of color in Texas, which is the third most populated AAPI state after California and New York. Out of the [1.53 million AAPIs in Texas](#), a staggering 17 percent are estimated to be without immigration status, 12 percent lack health insurance, and 11 percent live in poverty.

With COVID-19, the economic status of AAPI women is even grimmer. While AAPI women have historically been overrepresented in front-line and low-wage jobs that prevent them from accessing health care, many who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 have also [lost health coverage](#). Of those who lost their jobs during the pandemic, almost half of them have been out of work [for longer than six months](#), adding greater economic pressure to AAPI women.

For AAPI women who rely on Medicaid for health care, they often find themselves unable to afford an abortion. In 2019, nearly 16 percent of non-elderly AAPI women relied on Medicaid, with this program being particularly crucial for South and Southeast Asian women. However, federal funds cannot be used to pay for abortion care (apart from rape, incest, or if a pregnant person's life is in danger), banning Medicaid and other health programs from using federal funds for abortion.

While [8 out of 10](#) AAPI women consider having control over their own bodies as a key issue, they face numerous barriers that hinder their access to abortion. For AAPI Texans, SB 8 exacerbated existing difficulties, making it nearly impossible for them to obtain an abortion in their own state. Currently, Texans who are able to afford it are driving [hundreds of miles](#) for out-of-state abortion care, including to [at least 12 states](#) that do not border Texas. For immigrants who are traveling to seek an abortion, the stakes are even higher as they travel through Immigration and Customs Enforcement checkpoints without status or documentation.

When women are denied an abortion, [they are more likely to fall into poverty](#) than a woman who can obtain one. At the same time, when a woman is able to get an abortion, [her children are more likely](#) to achieve developmental milestones and live in a household above the poverty line than compared to the children of women who were denied abortions. S.B. 8 severely curtails AAPI women's ability to exercise control over their own lives.

S.B. 8 Implicates Other Civil Liberties and Gives Permission to Other States to Ban Abortion

S.B. 8 is harmful not only due to its almost complete ban of abortion but also because it implicates other crucial civil liberties such as the right to contraceptives and provides a roadmap for other states attempting to ban abortion, many of which have significant AAPI populations.

We thank the Committee for looking into this crucial issue for AAPIs. If you have any questions, please contact Da Hae Kim at dkim@napawf.org.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Hsu, Chief Policy and Government Affairs Officer