



national asian pacific american women's forum

napawf

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Address WWII Relocation & Internment of Japanese Latin Americans: Support S. 381/H.R. 662

July 2, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), the nation's only multi-issue advocacy and membership organization for Asian and Pacific Islander women and girls, writes to ask that you cosponsor and support S. 381/H.R. 662, the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latina Americans of Japanese Descent Act." The Bill would create a commission to investigate the World War II-era relocation, internment, and deportation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent and to recommend appropriate remedies for the manner in which they were treated.

While many Americans are aware of the government internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, few know that the U.S. government also uprooted approximately 2,300 Japanese Latin Americans and forcibly transported them to internment camps thousands of miles away in the U.S. Over 800 of these men, women and children were also deported to Japan in prisoner exchanges. With the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Congress honorably addressed the plight of Japanese Americans who were confined in internment camps. However, the law did not address the treatment of persons of Japanese ancestry who lived in thirteen Latin American countries and were also subjected to inhumane treatment during the war.

S. 381/H.R. 662 is an important step in bringing this regrettable chapter in American history to a close. NAPAWF believes this Bill deserves your support as an important civil and human rights measure. We urge you to work for its enactment.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Priscilla Huang, Policy and Programs Director, at 202-293-2688 or phuang@napawf.org.

Sincerely,

Kiran Ahuja
Executive Director