



## APAPA-SCR

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association

Southern California Southern California Regional HQ (APAPA-SCR)

*Empowerment of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans*

**For Immediate Release**

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### PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

## Special Awards Ceremony and Press Conference

In Celebration of

**The Passage of H.Res.683 “Regret for Chinese Exclusionary Laws”**

#### APAPA California Offices

Sacramento Headquarter, Bay Area Region/Chapter, San Francisco Chapter, Central Valley Region/Chapter, Southern California Region/Chapter, San Diego Chapter, Collegiate Council Chapter, Vacaville Office

[www.apapa.org](http://www.apapa.org)

**City of Industry, CA:** On Tuesday, July 3, the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) will host a special awards ceremony to show the Asian Community’s gratitude to the two great leaders, **Congresswoman Judy Chu** and **Congressman Howard Berman**, whom have been instrumental for the passage of the historic House Resolution 683 “**Regret for Chinese Exclusionary Laws**” on June 18, 2012 by the U.S. House of Representatives

The H. Res.683 introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu, helped passed by Congressman Howard Berman, officially ended a dark chapter in United States history.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first major law that singled out and forbade a specific ethnic group, the Chinese, from immigrating to and becoming naturalized citizens of the United States. It first started as a law against the Chinese, later expanded against Asians, eventually against most immigrants. For example, the Geary Act of 1892 and the Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibited the immigration and property ownership of Asians.

APAPA is proud to be part of a nationwide coalition under the leadership of Hon. Judy Chu, and the critical backing of Hon. Howard Berman. The community worked diligently for many months together rallying support from Congress and the general public.

You are invited to join us in commemorating this historic event. Please see our attached flyer for more information.

Event: **Special Awards Ceremony and Press Conference - In Celebration of The Passage of H.Res.683 “Regret for Chinese Exclusionary Laws”**

Date: **Tuesday, July 3, 2012**

Time: **2:00 PM – 3:00PM**

Location: Hilton Los Angeles / San Gabriel, **Santa Barbara Room (2<sup>nd</sup> FL)**

225 West Valley Boulevard

San Gabriel, CA 91776

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## ABOUT DR. JUDY CHU, PH.D.



Congresswoman Judy Chu has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. For the past 26 years, Dr. Chu has represented San Gabriel Valley neighborhoods as a local School Board member, Mayor and City Council member, State Assembly Member, as a member of the California State Board of Equalization and currently, as the Representative for the 32nd U.S. Congressional District.

Dr. Judy Chu was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for California's 32nd District in July 2009. She immediately got to work representing the interests of her constituents, voting on several environmental bills and working through the night on her first day in office, during a marathon debate on important healthcare reform legislation as part of her first assignment on the House Education and Labor Committee, where she served on the Subcommittees on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and Healthy Families and Communities.

In the 112th Congress, Rep. Chu serves on the House Judiciary Committee, where she is a member of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security and the Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet subcommittees. She is also a member of the House Small Business Committee, where she is leading the Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee as the Ranking Democrat and serves on the Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access and Agriculture, Energy and Trade Subcommittees. In 2011, she was elected as the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

In addition to her vote in favor of passage of the historic health care reform bill, Rep. Chu has championed a number of causes in Congress. She has used her extensive experience as a legislator and educator to help improve our nation's education system, helping pass a landmark college affordability bill to boost federal college grants and keep student loan interest rates low. Last year, she also introduced a bill that would

maintain adequate federal funding for much needed school lunch programs. She has also unveiled a new framework for awarding School Improvement Grants called Strengthening Our Schools (SOS), which provides a more holistic and research-based alternative to the more punitive and overly restrictive guidelines currently used.

She has continued to work hard to help Americans emerge from the recession, co-sponsoring a bill that would extend and expand the enormously successful Jobs NOW program, which uses federal stimulus funds to subsidize jobs at the local level and has already resulted in more than 11,000 jobs in Los Angeles County alone.

Congresswoman Chu is also a strong advocate for effective, humane and progressive immigration reform, having been an original co-sponsor of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR-ASAP) bill introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez last year.

Congresswoman Chu began her career as an educator and taught psychology at Los Angeles City College and East Los Angeles College for 20 years. She was first elected to the Garvey School District Board of Education in 1985.

She was then elected to the Monterey Park City Council, where she served as Mayor 3 times. From there, she was elected to the California State Assembly, where she was Chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee, which has control over all legislation with a fiscal impact to the state. While in the Assembly, she introduced and helped pass the most successful tax amnesty bill in the nation, which was estimated to bring in \$300 million but actually brought in \$4.8 billion in revenue for the state budget without raising taxes. She was then elected to the State Board of Equalization, California's tax board.

Rep. Chu earned her B.A. in mathematics from UCLA and her Ph.D. in psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN HOWARD L. BERMAN



Born in Los Angeles, California, Howard Berman attended U.C.L.A., where he received his B.A. in 1962 and his LL.B. in 1965.

Upon his graduation from law school, Howard Berman began his career in public service with an Assembly fellowship in Sacramento from 1965 to 1966. Then, he spent a year as a VISTA volunteer. From 1967 until 1973, he practiced law in Los Angeles, specializing in labor relations. In 1973, he was elected to the California State Assembly.

In his first term in the state legislature, then-Assemblyman Berman was named Assembly Majority leader, the youngest person ever to serve in that leadership capacity. He also served as Chair of the Assembly Democratic Caucus and the Policy Research Management Committee of the Assembly. In 1982, Berman was elected to Congress where he was named to the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Congressman Berman is the Ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, meaning he is the most senior Democrat serving on the committee. During his tenure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Berman negotiated a five-year, \$50 billion reauthorization of our global HIV/AIDS programs, and championed legislation that promotes stronger ties with our allies and partners in Asia, a vitally important region for our country's strategic and economic future.

- Berman worked closely with Rep. Judy Chu and Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith on the drafting and House passage of H. Res. 683, a resolution expressing regret for discriminatory laws passed by Congress in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that targeted individuals of Chinese descent in the United States.
- He strongly supported the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (H.R. 3080, 112<sup>th</sup> Congress), which enhances the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and our close ally South Korea, integrating our economies and people like never before. He also supported the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, as well as other efforts to increase trans-Pacific commerce.
- Berman was the lead sponsor of H.R. 672 (101<sup>st</sup> Congress), the Legal Immigration Reform Act of 1989, which provided Filipino veterans who fought under the U.S. flag and side-by-side with Americans in World War II the opportunity to become naturalized U.S. citizens. These provisions became law on November 29, 1990, (P.L. 101-649) as part of the Immigration Act of 1990. In addition, he has cosponsored over 40 bills relating to the Philippines or Filipino-American community while serving in Congress.

- Congressman Howard Berman and Senator Ted Kennedy authored other provisions in the Immigration Act of 1990 that allowed for greater levels of family and employment-based immigration to the United States. As a result of our legislation, large numbers of Asian-Americans were able to bring close relatives, including parents and children, to live with them in the United States. Berman successfully resisted at the last minute an effort to wipe out the ability of US citizens to sponsor siblings for family-based immigration (brothers and sisters).
- In 2001, Berman authored the first DREAM Act proposal ever introduced in Congress, which finally passed the House (but unfortunately, not the Senate) in 2010.
- He was an original cosponsor of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (100<sup>th</sup> Congress), signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 10, 1988. This legislation offered a formal apology to Japanese-Americans who were interned and otherwise mistreated during World War II. The Act also appropriated over a billion dollars in compensation to be paid to each surviving internee (\$20,000 per individual), as well as an educational trust fund to promote awareness of the internment and prevent similar injustices from occurring in the future. A Berman amendment to the legislation made babies born in the internment camps eligible for compensation
- Berman played a leading role in ensuring qualified Vietnamese refugees were admitted under the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) program. Under ROVR, approximately 20,000 additional refugees were admitted to the U.S.

As the second highest ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, Berman plays a key role in shaping the copyright, trademark, and patent laws that are of vital importance to the entertainment, biotechnology, broadcasting, pharmaceutical, telecommunication, consumer electronics, and information technology industries. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet.

Berman is particularly well-known for his ability to form bipartisan coalitions. Together with Republican Henry Hyde, Berman wrote a law authorizing embargoes on nations that support terrorism. With Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, he wrote amendments to the False Claims Act that have saved over \$20 billion in taxpayer money since 1986.

"There are few House members who have made such an imprint on legislation in so many areas as Howard Berman," says *The Almanac of American Politics*. The Almanac goes on to call Berman "one of the most aggressive and creative members of the House and one of the most clear-sighted operators in American politics."

Congressman Berman and his wife, Janis Gail Berman, have two daughters, Brinley and Lindsey.

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