

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR CALIFORNIA'S ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER FAMILIES

REPORT SHOWS API SAME SEX COUPLES ARE MORE LIKELY TO RAISE CHILDREN THAN NON API SAME SEX COUPLES

[San Francisco, CA]—September 27, 2005—CAA | Chinese for Affirmative Action/ Center for Asian American Advocacy will host a briefing on a report recently issued by UCLA's Williams Project on Asian and Pacific Islander (API) same-sex couples in California. The briefing will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2005, at CAA's office (17 Walter Lum Place) in Chinatown from 10:00am to 11:00am.

According to the report, California has the largest population of API same-sex couples in the nation. One in 10 same-sex couples in California include at least one API individual (13,000 APIs in total) and over 50 percent of API same-sex couples are raising children who would benefit from the protections that civil marriage would provide for their families. API same-sex couples are also more likely to be raising their own children than non-API same-sex couples (32%).

The report comes in the wake of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision to veto a landmark marriage equality bill that was passed by both the California State Senate and Assembly this year. His decision will leave thousands of families and children within the API community vulnerable to continued marriage discrimination. In contrast to the Governor, many API leaders have taken a stand in support of marriage equality.

Victor Hwang, Managing Attorney at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, notes that, "As a straight ally and member of the API community, I know that marriage equality matters deeply to the API community. Nothing is more important to Asian Americans than family, and families headed by same-sex couples are very much part of our community."

API faith leaders, public officials, and couples will be on hand at the briefing to discuss the findings in the report. To download the report, please go to the Williams Project website at: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsproj. The executive summary of the report is available for review in five API languages, including: Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Japanese, and Chinese.

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