As Covid-19 worsens, family unity must play a central role in our immigration system

*Trumps negligent response to COVID-19 cannot be hidden by his scapegoating of immigrants*

Atlanta, GA, April 21, 2020 — On Monday evening, Trump communicated via twitter that he will issue an executive order to “temporarily suspend immigration” to the United States. His tweet has not only confused DHS officials, but is in line with a systematic effort by his administration to scapegoat & criminalize immigrants.

In response, the Value Our Families Campaign issued the following statement:

“The Trump administration has worked to further a white nationalist and extremist agenda that limits immigration, and criminalizes migrants. This tweet, and potential Executive Order does both: It builds on his xenophobic rhetoric and places blame on already vulnerable communities.

“Immigration is not just about the economy. Our system is designed to unify family members and is a legal right for many Americans. This crisis has reminded us of the centrality of family members in our society. There is no question that Trump is using this tactic to distract from his failed COVID-19 response. From a lack of ventilators to no testing available, thousands have died due to his administration's ineptitude and negligence. Immigration is about much more than the economy, there is a moral imperative that must guide our immigration policies and ensure that family reunification visas are a priority.

“From day laborers delivering much-needed food and medical supplies to domestic workers and janitors ensuring clean and hygienic workplaces, frontline workers continue to play a vital role in the medical, food and service sectors. Immigrant doctors and healthcare workers are risking their own lives and family to ensure the safety of others. Across the country we are witnessing everyday heroes in this time of crisis, many of whom are immigrants.

“We need a President that can unify and heal our nation, yet Mr. Trump continues to advance a divisive and poisonous agenda. At a time in which solidarity is needed more than ever, and immigrants are a sizable number on the frontlines of this pandemic, we must work together to find solutions.”

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated toAsian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit [www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org](http://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org).