Asian Americans Advancing Justice Condemns Increased Funding for Immigration Enforcement As Inhumane and Unnecessary Drain on Taxpayers

Norcross, GA, March 17, 2017 — Today, the White House requested that Congress provide an additional $3 billion for the rest of fiscal year 2017 to the Department of Homeland Security to grow its mass deportation force, increase immigrant detention beds, and begin planning the construction of a border wall.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice), an affiliation of five civil rights organizations, issues the following statement:

“Asian Americans Advancing Justice is strongly opposed to increased funding on the backs of taxpayers, including many individuals who are the target of the Administration’s mass deportation and detention efforts that will tear families apart and instill unnecessary fear in our communities. Rather than separating families, the U.S. government should spend more money on supporting them. The so-called “skinny budget” released along with the supplemental border funding request slashes funding for myriad programs that support children, families and working people.

The supplemental immigration enforcement funding request was accompanied by an additional request to increase the Department of Defense’s funding by $30 billion — funding above and beyond the close to $20 billion the U.S. already spends per year on immigration enforcement. This $3 billion increase is just the very beginning of plans to waste billions of taxpayer dollars on inhumane immigration enforcement measures.

We find this request shameful and urge Congress not to give in to the Administration’s fear-mongering and propaganda on immigration. We opposed rounding up and deporting millions of immigrants who have deep ties within our communities and who make important contributions to their families and our society.

We also oppose the construction of a border wall. The entire cost to construct the border wall is estimated to be $21.5 billion. The Administration has also promised to triple the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers it employs at an estimated cost of $8.4 – $10.8 billion over five years and add 5,000 more border patrol agents for an additional cost of $3.3 billion over five years.

The border is secure. The undocumented population has been stable since 2009 and around 66% of undocumented immigrants have lived here for more than 10 years. We need more humanity in our immigration system, not less. The immigration system needs to be fixed but not by militarized force. We need to give individuals in this country a pathway for citizenship and treat them with the same dignity shown to millions of immigrants who have come to this country for hundreds of years.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice will continue to resist the anti-immigrant agenda of the Trump Administration because we know it is antithetical to who we are as a nation.”

CONTACT:
Jessica Jinn, (213) 241-8817, jjinn@advancingjustice-la.org
Michelle Boykins, (202) 296-2300 x144, mboykins@advancingjustice-aajc.org
Brandon Lee, (773) 271-0899 x200, blee@advancingjustice-chicago.org
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian 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.