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APALA Responds to Trump and GOP Shutdown

Washington, DC – Today, Trump and the GOP shut down the government due to their inability to pass a long term spending bill that invests in our families, communities, and children. The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) condemns the GOP's inaction that puts millions of people at risk and demands Congress to immediately find permanent legislative solutions for undocumented youth and recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Monica Thammarath, APALA National President, stated: "Instead of reaching a bipartisan deal, the GOP walked away from common sense policies that benefit the country as a whole. Rather than passing a DREAM Act which would provide relief for 800,000 undocumented youth, the GOP continues to criminalize immigrants of color and enable Trump's mass deportation, white supremacist agenda. In a political atmosphere where immigrants and workers are constantly under attack, what happens under the Trump regime could have irreparable ramifications for decades to come."

"The right wing needs to stop putting people's lives in grave danger," added APALA Executive Director Alvina Yeh. "Instead of providing healthcare for 9 million kids nationwide, Republicans are making our nation's children sick again. Passing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at the expense of the DREAMers is out of the question, just as putting our immigrant families on the line for a DACA deal is unconscionable. Children and working families deserve to have a fair chance to build healthy, stable lives here, but the GOP is clearly touting a literally sick, anti-immigrant, anti-worker agenda."

"Republicans control every branch of government," continued Thammarath. "It is absolutely despicable that working families will feel the brunt of the GOP's political game and extremism. We demand the GOP to value our families and to find solutions that invest in our communities long term."

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The **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance** (APALA), AFL-CIO was founded in 1992 as the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

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