

APALA

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE, AFL-CIO



Worker, Immigrant, and Civil Rights

Founded in 1992

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APALA Welcomes TPP Withdrawal; Cautions against Other Executive Orders

Washington, DC – Today, Mr. Trump signed an executive order that outlines his administration’s plan to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Having opposed the trade agreement since its inception, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) welcomes the withdrawal from TPP, but remains vigilant for additional executive orders that would severely impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and other allied communities.

APALA National President Johanna Puno Hester and Assistant Executive Director of the United Domestic Workers, AFSCME Local 3930 commented: “Bad trade agreements, like the TPP and NAFTA, have too long put profits over working people. The TPP could have devastating ramifications for working families in the U.S. and even more workers in the global economy, so we’re naming this a victory for working people who fought against the TPP even before Trump’s campaign.”

“We’re tired of trade policy that benefits the 1% and hurts working and middle class families. As an organization dedicated to economic justice, we want fair trade, and we’re not going to get that with TPP,” said APALA Executive Director Gregory A. Cendana. “However, we also can’t let this one win eclipse other policies that will likely be at the cost of people of color and other marginalized communities, and we remain watchful for policies that will be harmful for ours and allied communities.”

In addition to the executive order withdrawing from TPP, Mr. Trump also signed two more orders to freeze federal hires, and to ban federal funding for foreign organizations that provide or promote abortion services.

Monica Thammarath, APALA 1st Vice President and Senior Liaison at the National Education Association added: “The ‘global gag rule’ seriously threatens access to reproductive healthcare and will no doubt increase dangerous and unsafe abortions worldwide. This is a slap in the face to the millions of women and allies who protested last weekend during the Women’s March, one of the largest worldwide demonstrations in history.”

“Today’s executive orders are just the beginning of a treacherous path that we know will threaten the safety of and curb the rights of our communities here and abroad,” Hester concluded. “But don’t doubt that we will resist, organize and fight back.”

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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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