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NQAPIA and APALA Condemn Administration's Rollback on Transgender Protections

Washington, DC – This week, the Trump Administration issued rollbacks on guidance provided under the Obama Administration that allowed transgender students to use the restrooms matching their gender identity. The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) condemn these rollbacks that signal the administration's betrayal of transgender and gender non-conforming students who deserve to go to school free from bullying and hate.

"Implementing policies that make our kids in public schools even less safe is reprehensible," declared NQAPIA Organizing Director Sasha W. "Every child deserves to attend school without fear of discrimination, no matter where they are in the country. This a continuation of the administration's attack on trans people - trans and gender nonconforming people were affected by the Muslim ban, by the escalation of this country's deportation machine, and by the increase of power in the hands of police. This administration shamelessly continues to enact policies that simply do not work and that make our communities feel more unsafe in this country."

"Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos did nothing to stop this rollback from happening," added Monica Thammarath, APALA 1st Vice President and Senior Liaison at the National Education Association, the nation's largest labor union advancing public education. "Now more than ever, we are calling on all states, school districts, and educators to support their students and double down on their own efforts to reject hate and discrimination. With DeVos at the head of the U.S. Department of Education, our organizing and advocacy becomes that much more important."

Johanna Puno Hester, APALA National President and Assistant Executive Director of the United Domestic Workers, AFSCME Local 3930, stated: "Though this is a devastating blow to our public schools, NQAPIA and APALA will continue to fight for AAPI- and all transgender and nonconforming people because it's evident that the federal government sure as hell won't. An attack on one of us is an attack on all, and we will resist all policies and attempts that heighten transphobia, xenophobia, white nationalism, and hate."

Gregory A. Cendana, APALA Executive Director, concluded: "A little more than a month into his administration, we have already seen LGBTQ, Muslim, immigrant and refugee communities under attack by the administration. This is fascism at work, and we will do everything in our power to resist, organize and fight back against policies that undermine and endanger the margins of our communities."

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