

Community Action Alert!

Voice Your Concern with FBI Director Wray's Remarks on Chinese Students, Scientists and Professors as National Security Threat

Many in Asian American communities, particularly Chinese Americans, are shocked and concerned to hear high-ranking U.S. officials characterize students, professors and scientists of Chinese origin as potential national security threats in a recent Senate hearing. This broad characterization targeting people by national origin is against the American values and federal laws. It exacerbates the bias against all Chinese Americans because an average American in general cannot tell the difference between Chinese foreign students and scholars and U.S. citizens of Chinese descent.

Spurred by the community's broad concerns, OCAA helped coordinate an effort by the leaders of 14 national organizations in writing a [letter](#) on March 1st to FBI Director with a request for a meeting. Given that several Chinese American scientists in recent years have been mistakenly targeted for prosecution of espionage-related charges, these organizations seek to create an ongoing dialogue with the FBI to foster better communications and mutual understanding between these communities and the FBI. Now is your turn.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Sign up on [here](#) to register your concern, and support the organizations' efforts to create a dialogue with the FBI Director.
2. Contact your House Representatives and Senators. Find their contact info [here](#). See below for sample language for a phone call or letter.
3. Share this action alert with your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Sample Language for Phone Call or Letter

I am a constituent from [City, State]. I am calling to express my concerns about the FBI Director's remarks during a recent Senate hearing. He made a blanket statement that characterized all Chinese students, professors and scientists as potential spies. By making such statements, he is approving law enforcement to target people based on their ethnic background and national origin. This is against the American values and federal laws. There are several examples of innocent Chinese Americans being wrongfully accused as spies, which caused severe damage to their life and family. I'd like to ask my congressman/senator to

- Call on the FBI Director to clarify his statement, and reaffirm that the FBI will not engage in profiling based on national origin or ethnicity.
- Encourage the FBI Director to speak to the coalition of 14 national organizations that sent him a letter on March 1 calling for a dialogue between the FBI and the Asian American community.
- Assure the voters in [your congressional district or state] that the congressman/senator will not tolerate broad profiling based on a person's ethnic identity or national origin.

Background reading

1. ["The Chinese Student Threat?" Inside Higher Ed, February 15, 2018](#)
2. [CAPAC Members on Rubio and Wray's Remarks Singling Out Chinese Students as National Security Threats, press statement, February 15, 2018](#)
3. ["FBI Director's Shock Claim: Chinese Students Are a Potential Threat," Daily Beast, February 13, 2018](#)