

# Prop 54: The Information Ban

*"By blocking access to almost all information about race, it would end the State's ability to enforce civil rights and make it alarmingly easy for groups and individuals to practice discrimination."*

--U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

*"Prop. 54 would eliminate statistical information that health care providers need to provide quality care to Californians, prevent disease, and save lives."*

--California Medical Association

## What is Proposition 54?

The initiative makes it illegal for state and local agencies, including public schools, hospitals, and law enforcement to collect data on race or ethnicity. If passed, the initiative will make it much more difficult to prevent discrimination and could devastate the state's ability to collect vital information to safeguard health and safety, establish education policies and combat hate crimes. **Prop. 54 will be voted upon on October 7, 2003**

## How will Proposition 54 Affect Asian Pacific Americans?

- 1. Prop. 54 wipes out data health professionals need to fight chronic diseases, develop effective prevention programs, and save lives.** Hepatitis B is a silent killer in the Asian American community. Yet, Prop. 54 could make it illegal for public health agencies and research institutions such as the University of California to track diseases and health issues by race or ethnicity. Without this data, it would be impossible to tailor preventive programs for specific cultures and communities. The California Medical Association, California Academy of Family Physicians, Kaiser Permanente, and many other healthcare organizations oppose Prop. 54 because it bans research that saves lives.
- 2. Prop. 54 endangers public safety by banning data needed to design proper crime prevention and other programs to serve the needs of crime victims.** For, example, in Santa Clara County, 34% of women killed in domestic violence cases were Asian American (1994-1997). Law enforcement needs this type of information to provide culturally competent services to our diverse communities.
- 3. Prop. 54 makes it illegal for the state to collect information law enforcement and local communities use to combat hate crimes and prevent racial profiling.** More than 1150 hate crimes based on a person's race or ethnicity were reported in 2000 alone. Especially vulnerable since 9/11, the APA community has been a constant target for these crimes. The initiative prevents state agencies from collecting and analyzing data to ensure racial profiling does not happen. The State Attorney General, law enforcement groups, and the Anti-Defamation League all oppose Prop. 54.
- 4. Prop. 54 hides discrimination in employment.** Promotions for Asian American women in the state government workforce fell by 8% in the 3 years after affirmative action programs were eliminated (1997-99). Without data, it would be impossible to challenge unreasonable job requirements or glass ceilings that discriminate against Asian Pacific Americans.

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