



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
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October 10, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
White House Initiative on Asian Americans and
Pacific Islanders
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

On behalf of our physician and medical student members, the American Medical Association (AMA) is writing to urge the U.S. Department of Commerce to restore webpages on the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Initiative (similar to those from prior Administrations) that specifically address disaggregation of health outcomes related to AAPI data.

AAPIs are the fastest growing racial group in the United States. The AAPI population is expected to more than double from its current 20 million by the year 2060. On May 13, 2019, President Trump signed the [Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#) (EO). The EO establishes the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Commission) and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Initiative). One of the five focus areas for the Initiative is advancing health equity. Additionally, the Initiative engages with federal leaders and the community on four cross-cutting ideas: data disaggregation, language access, capacity building, and workforce diversity. It is our understanding that on October 1, 2019, both the Commission and the Initiative transitioned from being under the purview of the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The AMA supports the disaggregation of demographic data regarding AAPIs in order to reveal the within-group disparities that exist in health outcomes and representation in medicine. As a result, given the recent transition we urge the U.S. Department of Commerce to restore the webpages on the Initiative that specifically address disaggregation of health outcomes related to AAPI data.

If you have any questions please contact Margaret Garikes, Vice President of Federal Affairs, at margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org or 202-789-7409.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD