



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Shankland Stands with Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Community, Calls on Colleagues to Confront Anti-APIDA Violence and Hate

MADISON- Today, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement in response to yesterday's shooting in Acworth, Georgia and the report from Stop AAPI Hate released Tuesday that showed 3,795 anti-Asian hate incidents occurring between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021.

"Everyone deserves the freedom to live in their community without fear for their safety. I'm sickened and horrified by the anti-Asian hate, discrimination, and violence that exists in our country. Over the course of the pandemic, incidences of such hate and violence have risen by 150% in major cities across the country. Here in Portage County, our own community members were harassed at a grocery store and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic. This chilling rise in anti-Asian sentiment and discrimination cannot be allowed to continue. We all must do our part in naming, calling out, condemning, and actively working to stop anti-Asian violence and hate whenever we see it, especially in our systems and institutions.

"That's why I am so disappointed that instead of spending time constructively debating how to solve these issues, the State Assembly chose to honor an individual who deliberately employed divisive rhetoric which caused harm to marginalized communities. It seems that lately, my legislative colleagues in the majority have spent too much of their time introducing deliberately controversial resolutions and bills to score publicity, and too little time presenting and passing solutions to the problems facing our state.

"As elected officials, it's our fundamental responsibility to do the work to make our districts and our state a better place to live for all its residents. I call on every one of my legislative colleagues to sign on to Rep. Francesca Hong's resolution condemning violence against the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community and work with us to address the systemic issues members of the APIDA community face.

"I stand with the APIDA community today and every day. I hear you, see you, and appreciate you. I am committed to continuing the work in our community and state to center equity, inclusion, and belonging in our policies, words, and actions."

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