



# VA AAPI CAUCUS

Virginia Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus

## PRESS ADVISORY

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### **Virginia's Asian American and Pacific Islander State Legislators Strongly Support the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget**

*Recently-formed Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus worked closely with the Northam Administration to include key investments for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.*

**Richmond, VA** – The Virginia House of Delegates' Appropriations Committee and the State Senate's Finance and Appropriations Committee today are holding joint public hearings on Governor Ralph Northam's budget proposal to fund the state's operations for fiscal years 2023-2024.

The Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus is pleased to highlight the following provisions that are important to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, which is the fastest growing ethnic minority group in the Commonwealth:

- Nearly \$11 million for state government agencies to provide better language access for AAPI constituents needing public services;
- \$226 million, including an additional \$20.2 million, to fund public K-12 instructors for English language learners, many of whom are AAPI students;
- \$8 million to strengthen refugee resettlement services and to help lift AAPI and other families with limited English proficiency out of poverty; and
- \$3 million to improve and expand law enforcement efforts to address hate crimes against Virginians, including AAPIs.

“This budget leverages Virginia’s historic revenue surplus to address long-standing barriers to health and economic success faced by AAPI Virginians,” said **Del. Kathy Tran**, First Vice Chair of VAAPIC. “We thank Governor Northam for partnering with our Caucus on these priority issues, and we look forward to working with the incoming Administration to ensure that these much-needed investments remain in the final biennial budget.”

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