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### New Legislations Moving Through Congress Without the Portman Amendment

**The CHIPS and Science Act.** On August 9, 2022, President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act at a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. According to [The Hill](#), the new law provides billions of dollars in incentives to the domestic semiconductor industry and fund scientific research that proponents say will help boost U.S. competitiveness and solve supply chain challenges. The bill includes more than \$50 billion in incentives for manufacturers of semiconductors, or chips, to build domestic semiconductor plants. It also includes more than \$80 billion for the National Science Foundation authorized over five years to support innovation and research.

The House Science Committee has launched a comprehensive webpage on the CHIPS and Science Act at <https://bit.ly/3zK8rGL>, including the text of the 1,034-page bill, section-by-section summaries, and multiple fact sheets. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) published a breakdown of the bill here: <https://bit.ly/3zQV47M>. In addition to AAAS, [the American Chemical Society](#), [the American Physical Society](#), [the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#), and [the Association of American Universities](#), as well as [Rep. Judy Chu](#), Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, expressed their support for the legislation.

A broad coalition of the Asian American, civil rights, academic and scientific, and immigrant communities under the leadership of Advancing Justice | AAJC was on alert about an amendment introduced by Ohio Senator Robert Portman, which would have required each executive agency on a new federal council to in effect create and run its own mini-China Initiatives. It would also expand the State Department's ability to deny visas and criminalize non-disclosures of foreign funding sources on federal grant applications that are currently administrative processes, among other provisions. The Portman amendment was not included in the final CHIPS and Science bill.

However, a definition of "Maligned Foreign Talent Recruitment Program" was included in pages 801-804 of the final [CHIPS and Science Act](#) signed by the President. [Science](#) reported there are research security provisions to tighten oversight of interactions between U.S. and foreign scientists, and with foreign governments. For example, the legislation prohibits U.S.-based

scientists with federal funding from participating in a foreign talent recruitment program sponsored by China and Russia and bans federal employees from participating in such programs from any country. In addition, institutions receiving federal research dollars must now provide research security training to faculty and staff. And NSF has been ordered to set up an independent forum to discuss how to strengthen research security in academic settings.

**Inflation Reduction Act.** In a weekend marathon session, the Senate passed the Inflation Reduction Act with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the tie-breaking vote on August 7, 2022. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the bill by the end of the week, with President Joe Biden signing it into law shortly after.

According to [USA Today](#), Democrats advanced the bill through the budget reconciliation process, allowing them to avoid the 60-vote threshold to overcome a Republican filibuster. On the evening of August 6, the Senate cut off debate after a few hours and opted to move straight to "vote-a-rama" when senators can offer up an unlimited amount of amendments to a bill but the process is expedited. There is only one minute allocated for debate, equally divided between both sides. Then, senators are given 10 minutes to vote. This process repeats for every single amendment. Vote-a-rama lasted nearly 16 hours before a final vote was held. The majority of amendments were proposed by Republicans, on issues like the IRS, energy production, and immigration. Many failed 50-50 with no senator crossing party lines. There is no Portman Amendment in the final Senate bill.

The new bill makes the largest investment in combating climate change in U.S. history, lowers the cost of prescription drugs and raises taxes on corporations. According to [Forbes](#), the big provisions include creation of a 15% corporate minimum tax rate, prescription drug price reform, IRS tax enforcement, and Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidy extension.

On August 9, 2022, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Raul Ruiz, M.D. (CA-36), Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (OH-03), and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Judy Chu (CA-27) issued [a joint statement](#) applauding the Senate passage of the Inflation Reduction Act and indicated that the House will vote on its passage later this week. Earlier on August 5, Rep. Chu issued [a statement](#) strongly urging her Senate colleagues "to reject any amendments which may be harmful to immigrant communities."

## Update on Anti-Asian Hate Crime in Midland, Texas



According to [AP](#) on August 5, 2022, a Texas man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for attacking an Asian family in 2020 because he thought they were Chinese and therefore responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, Jose Gomez III, 21, of Midland, Texas, was sentenced to three counts of committing a hate crime. When pleading guilty in March, Gomez admitted that he used a knife to slash Bawi Cung and his 6- and 2-year-old sons inside a Sam's Club in Midland because he believed they were Chinese and spreading the coronavirus. Bawi Cung is from Myanmar. The heroes and victims in this anti-Chinese hate crime are not even of Chinese origin.

The March 2020 attack occurred as Asians faced verbal harassment and physical assaults across the United States after the virus began spreading nationwide. Gomez did not know the family when he followed them inside the store. He followed them for several minutes because he perceived them to be a "threat" because they were "from the country who started spreading that disease around." Gomez then purchased a serrated steak knife and slashed the three before a Sam's Club employee, Zach Owen, intervened, stopping the attack as Gomez yelled "Get out of America." Zach Owen disarmed the suspect bare handedly. Unfortunately, Zach's right palm also suffered permanent injury and the grip strength is down to 40%.

On June 22, 2020, a coalition of Asian American organizations honored Zach Owen and Bernie Ramirez, a Border Patrol agent who also intervened in the violent anti-Asian stabbing with a special Lily and Vincent Chin Advocacy Award Ceremony. It was followed by the From Vincent Chin to George Floyd Webinar led by Helen Zia, award-winning journalist and community activist, and moderated by Gordon Quan, attorney and former Houston City Council member.

On August 10, 2020, Zach Owen testified in the [Tri-caucus Congressional Forum on Rise in Anti-Asian Bigotry during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)," which was organized by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

On December 27, 2020, a virtual event was held with Professor Steven Pei as the host to conclude [a successful GoFundMe campaign](#), which raised over \$120,000 from over 2,700 individuals. Organizers for the event included ACP Foundation Dallas, OCA Greater Houston, Reagan Hignojos, friend of the Cung Family, United Chinese Americans, and APAPA Austin Texas Chapter.

Read about this Midland, Texas, anti-Asian hate crime story here: <https://bit.ly/3swPJA2>

## **2022/08/16 San Francisco Town Hall on Epidemic of Violence Facing Asian Elders**

On August 16, A Town Hall on Epidemic of Violence Facing Asian Elders will be held at Victory Hall, Central Chinese High School, 829 Stockton Street, San Francisco. San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott and District Attorney Brooke Jenkins will listen to the thoughts of the community and respond to questions. Cantonese and Mandarin interpretation will be provided.

On August 2, 2022, 70-year-old former San Francisco city commissioner [Greg Chew](#) was brutally attacked near his home. Officers from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) used surveillance video and images collected from nearby to locate and arrest 34-year-old Derrick Yearby. Earlier on July 31, 2022, a 70-year-old San Francisco woman named [Mrs. Ren](#) was beaten and kicked in the head by a group of four juveniles in a savage caught-on-camera attack in her apartment building.

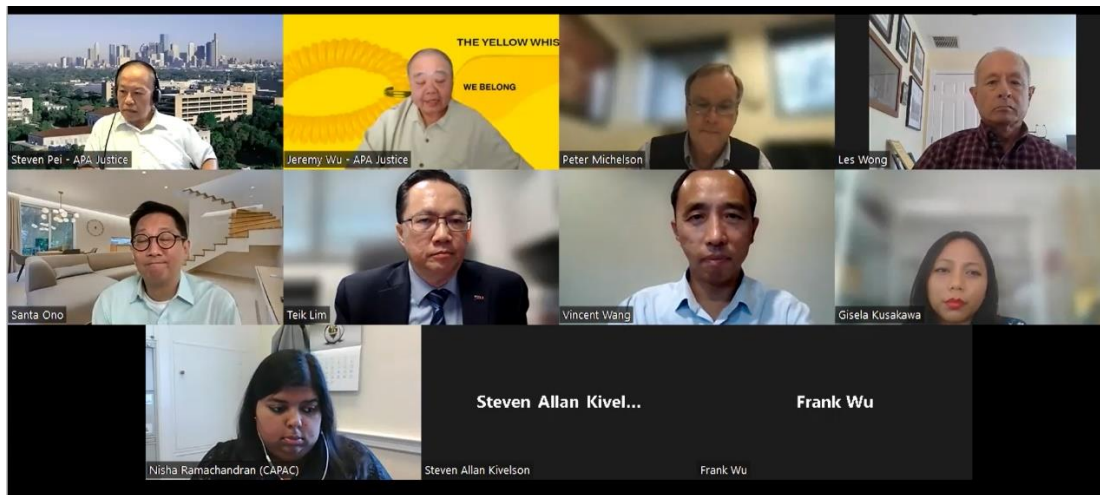
On August 7, 2022, the Bay Area's Asian American community stepped up, demanding action and answers about recent brutal attacks on its elder community in [a march and rally](#). Activists said they were tired of waiting for real-time solutions to help protect members of the community and demanded SFPD Chief William Scott hold a town hall meeting on the issue within the next 10 days.

## Webinar: Dialogue Between NIH Officials and SCBA Community: Concerns and Solutions



The Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) hosted its 18th International Symposium in Boston, MA from July 27 to 31, 2022. On July 28, 2022, a webinar titled "Dialogue between NIH Officials & SCBA Community: Concerns and Solutions" was held and moderated by Professor Margaret Lewis, Seton Hall University. Introduction was made by Dr. Shan-Lu Liu, President, SCBA. Panelists included U.S. Representative Judy Chu (Pre-recorded); Dr. Michael Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH; Dr. Gang Chen, Carl Richard Soderberg Professor, MIT; and Mr. Henry S. Tang, Co-founder of Committee of 100. Steven Pei and Jeremy Wu, co-organizers of APA Justice, also participated virtually in the Q&A session.

## **2022/08/01 APA Justice Monthly Meeting**



During the August 1, 2022, APA Justice monthly meeting, Stanford University Senior Associate Dean Peter Michelson and Professor Steven Allen Kivelson discussed their published opinion "[Repair the Damage Done by DOJ Wrongly Targeting Chinese Scientists](#)" in *The Hill* and their thoughts on the next steps. Jeremy Wu and Gisela Kusakawa reported on the development and the implications of the CHIPS and Science bill as a coalition of diverse organizations stood ready for action. Les Wong, President Emeritus of San Francisco State University, and Frank Wu, President of Queen's College, City University of New York, began exploratory discussions of create an executive network of university leaders of Asian descent. They were joined by Santa Ono, President-election of the University of Michigan, and several current and former administrators.

A summary of the meeting is being prepared and will be posted at <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>

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