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February 8, 2024

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau AK, 99801

This correspondence was also sent via email on February 8.

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for your bill, Senate Bill 131, which aims to bring education about the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to Alaska's public schools.

I am also excited to share the formation of the Alaska chapter of Make Us Visible, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for the inclusion of Asian American and Pacific Islander history in school curricula nationwide. Our team includes myself, Shayne Nuesca (interim director), and steering committee members Emily Cho, Young Kim, Kaye Roldan, and Chris Mariano. Since 2021, Make Us Visible has established 24 state chapters and has helped pass similar legislation in Florida, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

As Alaskans who care deeply about comprehensive education, we believe it is crucial for all students to learn about the diversity and cultural heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in shaping the history of our state and our country. Many of us don't learn this history until much later in life — when we seek it ourselves. With Senate Bill 131, we are hopeful future generations can know this history sooner, be proud of their culture, and be empowered by this knowledge.

Through Make Us Visible, we can provide research, resources, and expertise on implementing education programs highlighting AAPI history. Most importantly, we can assist in outreach efforts to raise awareness about the importance of SB 131 among community leaders, educators, and the public.

Thank you for your leadership in championing Senate Bill 131. We look forward to working together to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shayne Nuesca'.

Shayne Nuesca on behalf of Make Us Visible Alaska