



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Asian American Bar Association of New York Issues Statement on Presidential Proclamation Imposing \$100,000 Fee on H-1B Workers

The Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) is deeply concerned by the September 19, 2025 Presidential Proclamation imposing a \$100,000 fee on the entry of H-1B workers, effective for petitions filed on or after September 21, 2025. This measure will disproportionately impact the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community, harm both the New York and national economy, and raise serious legal and policy concerns.

AANHPI individuals are uniquely affected by this proclamation, with more than 80% of H-1B beneficiaries coming from Asia, particularly India and China. For decades, H-1B professionals have lived, worked, and raised families in the United States. They are not temporary visitors but integral members of our neighborhoods, schools, and places of worship.

H-1B beneficiaries are highly trained professionals filling critical roles in industries facing talent shortages. They pay taxes, contribute to civic life, and support the communities where they live. Their contributions to research, education, and technological innovation are vital to U.S. economic growth and global competitiveness.

The proclamation will have especially severe consequences for New York. The New York City metro area has the largest number of H-1B petitioners. Our health care systems, universities, and research institutions rely heavily on H-1B physicians, scientists, and educators. Sectors such as finance, fintech, and start-ups—cornerstones of New York's economy—also are strongly supported by the contributions of H-1B workers. Small and mid-sized businesses, as well as nonprofits, will be hardest hit by the financial barrier imposed, threatening key pipelines of talent and innovation.

Studies have shown that H-1B workers fuel job creation and economic growth for all Americans. By making their entry prohibitively expensive, this policy risks fewer startups, less innovation, and slower growth at a time when our economy needs to remain competitive globally.

The sudden and sweeping nature of this proclamation also raises serious concerns about fairness and predictability in the immigration system. Employers, students, and families depend on stability and transparency to make critical decisions. Abrupt changes issued without process undermine confidence in the rule of law.

AABANY urges the Administration to reconsider and rescind this measure. America has long been strengthened by the talents and contributions of immigrants, and policies affecting them should be crafted with care, transparency, and attention to long-term economic and social

consequences. We support H-1B families, the businesses and institutions that depend on their contributions, and the immigrant communities that strengthen our nation.

AABANY issues this statement to reflect only the views of the Association and not that of any individual Board members, Committee Chairs, Association members, or any of their employers or affiliated organizations.

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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