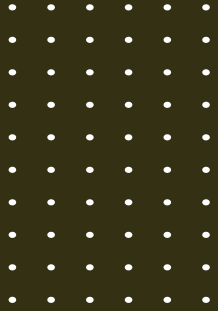


KAGC



KOREAN AMERICAN POLICY PRIORITIES

A summary of the key issues of the Korean American community, relevant legislation and policy recommendations, as presented by the Korean American Grassroots Conference



118TH
CONGRESS

(202) 450-4252
INFO@KAGC.US
[HTTPS://KAGC.US](https://kagc.us)

June 2023



KOREAN AMERICAN GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE

The largest nationwide network of Korean American voters, the **Korean American Grassroots Conference (KAGC)** is a non-partisan, non-for-profit organization dedicated to uplifting our community through active civic participation from the grassroots level.

KAGC bridges the grassroots to Capitol Hill by educating members and staff of Congress on Korean American policy priorities, as well as assisting its 30 partner organizations to develop and implement civic education and voter registration programs across the United States.

In order to equip and empower our community members to become active participants and effective advocates, KAGC serves as the central resource hub by providing up-to-date information and analyses on the Korean American electorate, issues priorities, and policy development.

Over the years, KAGC has served as the leading grassroots organizer that has provided comprehensive education to develop civic literacy and leadership capacities for community members of all age groups.

KAGC Mission

The Korean American Grassroots Conference is dedicated to uplifting our community through active civic engagement, and in turn, to contributing to the U.S.-Korea alliance. To that end, KAGC provides our community members on the grassroots level with information, training, programs, and platforms to actively participate in their local communities as vocal citizens.

KAGC Programs

Civic Education

Educating the key issues of the Korean American community and their impacts on the daily lives

Civic Participation

Training community members at the grassroots level with the means to become active participants and vocal citizens

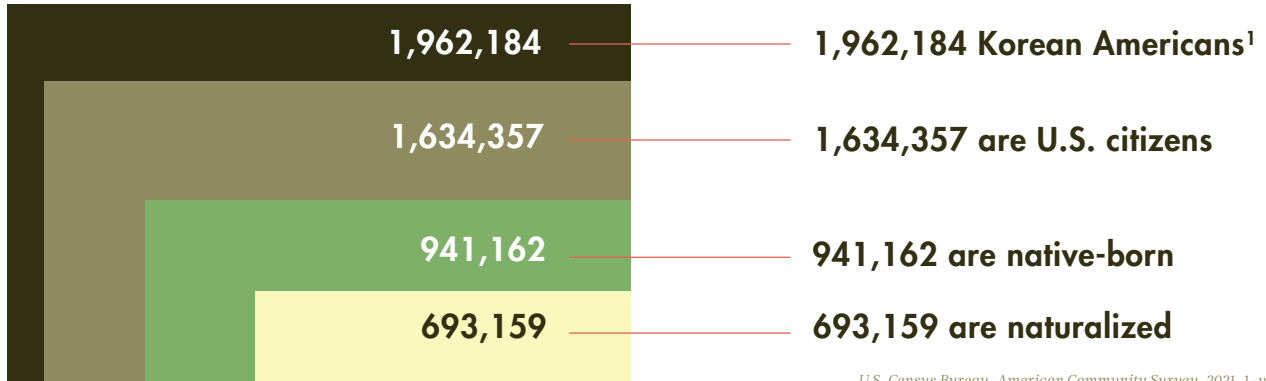
- KAGC Leadership Summit
- KAGC Young Professionals Summit
- KAGC Regional Seminars
- Voter Registration Drives
- Korean American Policy Priorities
- Korean American Legislative Developments
- Congressional Directory
- Election Guide
- Korean American Voter Data
- KAGC National Conference
- Congressional Fellowship
- KAGC U On-Campus Education
- KAGC U Leadership Summit

[HTTPS://KAGC.US](https://kagc.us)

1012 14th Street NW
Suite 1475
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

INFO@KAGC.US
(202) 450-4252
(202) 817-3841 FAX

Overview of the Korean American Community

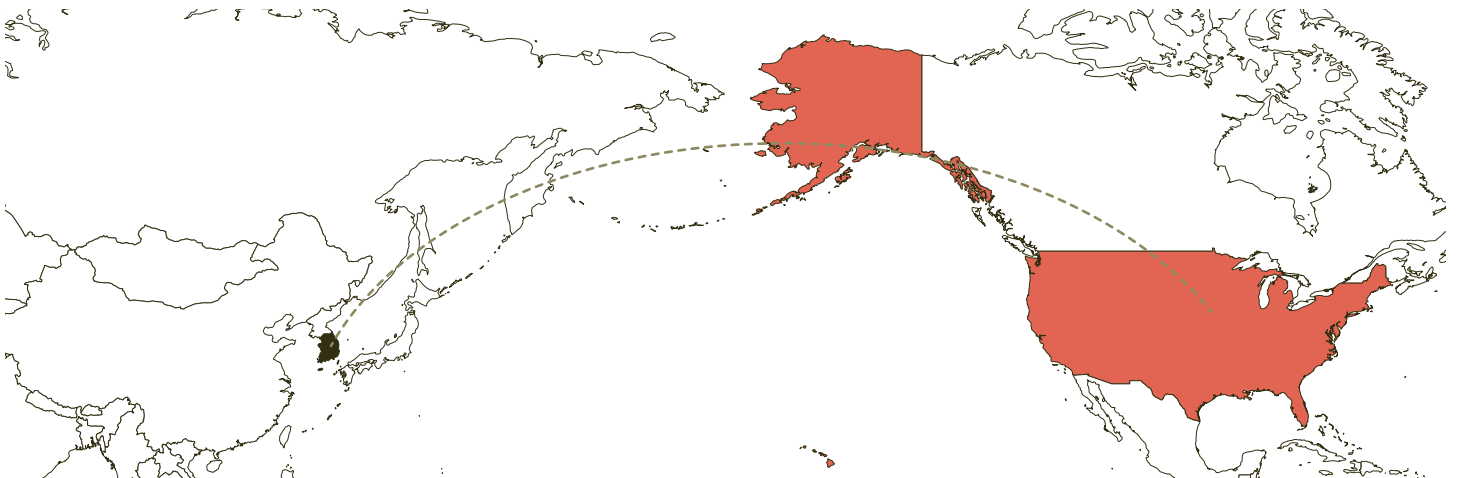


U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021, 1-year Estimate

- Among all ethnic groups, Korean Americans have the highest rate of small businesses with 4 or fewer employees.²
- 68 congressional districts are home to more than 5,000 Korean residents each.³
- As of September 30th, 2022, approximately 5,510 of active DACA recipients were estimated to have been born in South Korea, which ranks 6th among the top countries of origin.⁴
- As of September 30th, 2022, a total of 38,181 DACA applications have been approved for those born in South Korea, placing the country at the 5th among the countries of origin.⁵

The United States and Korea

- In 2020, South Korea was the 7th largest goods export market for the United States.⁶
- In terms of volume of goods, South Korea is our 6th largest trading partner.⁷
- Trade with South Korea supported over 1.01 million jobs across the U.S. in 2018.⁸
- Over 28,500 U.S. troops and civilian staff⁹ serve in dozens of military facilities across South Korea, including 15 major bases.¹⁰



Korean American Policy Priorities for the 118th U.S. Congress

Since 2011, KAGC has published a list of policy priorities of the Korean American community each year. The 2023 edition features relevant legislation of the Congress and updated information that reflects the rapidly changing need and challenges of recent time.

In consultation with various stakeholders—including the leaders of KAGC's partner organizations across the United States—these issues have been discussed and selected in order to educate both the community members at the grassroots level and those involved in the policy-making process.

The list of sources is listed in the endnote at the end of this report. For any request for additional information, please contact KAGC office by email at info@kagc.us or by phone at (202) 450-4252.

Table of Contents

04 Adoptee Rights to Citizenship

Provide intercountry adoptees excluded by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 with U.S. citizenship.

06 Small Business

Help increase resiliency in small business by providing more targeted support.

Provide necessary resources in multiple languages to overcome challenges for small businesses.

10 Immigration

Support comprehensive immigration reform and protect undocumented immigrant youth.

12 Diversity

Promote diversity of the staff in the U.S. Congress.

Increase federal government oversight of hate crimes and racial discrimination.

Provide necessary resources to language minorities by sharing public information.

18 Mental Health

Ensure the wellbeing of Korean American communities' mental health.

20 Voting Rights and Election Administrations

Increase accessibility to all elections through language access and other measures.

Establish a national standard for maintaining voter data in each state and local government.

25 U.S.-Korea Relations_Security

Promote a stronger alliance between the U.S. and Korean armed forces.

Provide a humanitarian reunion between Korean Americans and their families in North Korea.

29 U.S.-Korea Relations_Trade

Support measures to strengthen trade between the U.S. and Korea.

Promote a more active exchange of workforce between the U.S. and Korea.

31 U.S.-Korea Relations_Veterans

Support measures to honor and provide care for Korean American veterans of Vietnam War.

ADOPTEE RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP



KAGC urges Congress to end the crisis with a legislative solution to close the policy loophole and **provide intercountry adoptees with the U.S. citizenship that they are entitled to.**



"I have fought for the U.S. The U.S. needs to fight for me," said Leah, a Navy Reserve veteran who courageously shared her story of discovering her lack of U.S. citizenship just days before her deployment to Iraq. She was born in South Korea in 1982 and adopted by an American family in 1984. Because the U.S. was the only country she knew and because her parents were U.S. citizens, never once did it occur to her and her family that she could be anything but an American citizen until it was too late. **Unfortunately, there are as many as 49,000 more such people suffering from the same crisis as Leah.**

BACKGROUND

- According to Adoptee Rights Campaign, a partner organization of KAGC, it is estimated that between 25,000 and **49,000 people adopted from overseas** to the U.S. from 1945 to 1998 **lack U.S. citizenship.**¹¹
- Between 1955 and 2015, a total of 112,000 Korean children were adopted by U.S. families; however, 20,000 of those adoptees lack records of adoption finalization.¹²
- A total of 275,890 children born overseas were adopted by American parents between 1999 and 2018. About a quarter of them (26.8%) were issued IR-4 and IH-4 visas, which require the U.S. citizen adoptive parents to finalize the adoption process following the child's arrival to the U.S.¹³

CHALLENGE

- Affected intercountry adoptees lack U.S. citizenship today because they were not naturalized in time or their adoption was never finalized—due to inconsistent information, negligence, abuse, or ill-advice.
- Some adoptees were brought to the U.S. on non-immigrant visas.
- Congress passed the **Child Citizenship Act** in 2000 to grant U.S. citizenship to intercountry adoptees; however, the law limited its applicability to only those under the age of 18 at the time of enactment on February 27th, 2001.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide a legislative solution to proactively apply the changes made by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 to those left out of the law.

ADOPTEE RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.1593 / S.967 Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2021 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Smith (D, WA-9) and 63 others, as well as by Senator Blunt (R-MO) and 13 others in March 2021. Aims to amend the current policy to extend the applicability of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 to those over the age of 18 at the time of enactment.

H.R.2731 / S.1154 Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2019 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Smith (D, WA-9) and former Rep. Woodall (R, GA-7) and 95 others as well as by Senator Blunt (R-MO), Senator Collins (R-ME), Senator Hirono (D-HI), and Senator Klobuchar (D-MN) and 4 others in May 2019. Aims to amend the current policy to extend the applicability of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 to those over the age of 18 at the time of enactment.

Similar versions of the Adoptee Citizenship Act were introduced in both chambers in Congress during the 115th, 114th, and 111th Congresses.

The **Adoptee Citizenship Act** has been endorsed by nearly 40 partner organizations of KAGC, adoption-related organizations, think tanks, and religious groups, including the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of **Southern Baptist Convention** and the **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute**.¹⁴

REPORTED ON

The Washington Post

The New York Times



The Intercept

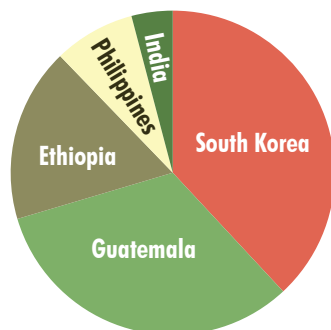
SUPPORTING OPINION EXPRESSED BY



ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING OPINIONS APPEARED ON



Sending Countries for Adoptees Entering U.S. on IR4 Visas: 1999-2021¹⁵



South Korea	26.05%	19,222
Guatemala	25.01%	16,319
Ethiopia	13.45%	8,775
India	6.28%	4,098
Philippines	3.17%	2,071

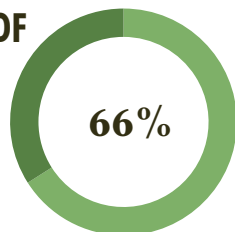
U.S. Department of State, Adoption Statistics

SMALL BUSINESS



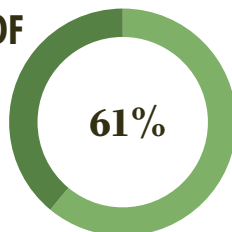
KAGC calls for a measure to help increase resiliency in small businesses that ensures more targeted support.

DISTRIBUTION OF KOREAN AMERICAN FIRMS BY PAID EMPLOYMENT SIZE, 2012¹⁶



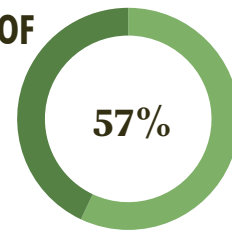
Percentage of Korean American firms with 4 or fewer employees

DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN AMERICAN FIRMS BY PAID EMPLOYMENT SIZE, 2012



Percentage of Asian American firms with 4 or fewer employees

DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. FIRMS BY PAID EMPLOYMENT SIZE, 2012



Percentage of all U.S. firms with 4 or fewer employees

At 66%, Korean Americans have the highest share of businesses with 4 or fewer employees, surpassing both the Asian American rate (61 %) and the national rate (57%). Many Korean Americans across the United States are business owners. In fact, Korean Americans own 224,891 businesses with receipts of \$107.8 billion, according to the latest report by the U.S. Census Bureau.¹⁷ Mostly small businesses, the number of Korean American businesses increased at a rate (16.8%) more than 8 times as much as that of the national total (2.0%) between 2007 and 2012.¹⁸

Often employing themselves and family members for far-beyond-normal working hours to keep overhead costs low, most Korean American business owners are also their own employees and lack the social safety net to fall back on during times of crisis.

In light of this, any relief measures would provide a great deal of assistance in protecting their business operations and improving the quality of life of Korean American working families. These may take the form of implementing tax breaks, sharing capital access, and building capacity for well-being.

Although there are several bills in Congress related to small businesses, most of them do not apply to Korean American small businesses for two reasons. First and foremost, most legislation defines a small business with the size of 500 employees in most industries. Second, small business legislation is often primarily focused on encouraging investment and R&D efforts, rather than assisting proper implementation of regulations.

BACKGROUND

- Small business is currently defined as a firm with 500 or fewer employees by the federal government.
- Asian Americans have a disproportionately high percentage of small businesses. Korean Americans, especially, own and operate a firm with 4 or fewer employees at a higher rate than any other demographics.
- Korean American small businesses have expanded their share in the number of firms, outpacing the expansion rate of many other demographics and the national average.
- Small businesses have a tremendously positive influence over the nation's economy and communities, creating 44% of the U.S. gross domestic product, accounting for two-thirds of net new jobs, and employing nearly half of the nationwide workforce.¹⁹

SMALL BUSINESS

CHALLENGE

- Small businesses run by minorities are more affected by global crises than their corporate counterparts due to a lower capacity for emergency management, such as a shortage of workforce, reduced profits, and supply chain disruptions in an epidemic or disaster.²⁰
- Small businesses typically have more difficulties accessing federal relief programs and are less prepared than large businesses in dealing with rising inflation and interest rates.²¹
- Minority-owned businesses often resort to taking out loans from online lenders that charge high interest rates for short-term financing, because there are systemic barriers that impede their access to traditional bank loans, thereby preventing sustainable business models.²²

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Define "microbusiness" in the federal government as a firm with fewer than 10 employees and annual gross receipts less than \$1,000,000.
- Ensure that relief programs primarily reach small businesses and "microbusinesses" instead of large corporations.
- Include in all legislative efforts to support small businesses, adequate and timely access to information on government regulations, especially for language minorities.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.45 / S.45 Small Business Tax Fairness and Compliance Simplification Act 118th Congress
Introduced by Rep. LaHood (R, IL-16) and 9 others in January 2023, as well as by then-Sen. Cardin (D-MD) and 2 cosponsors in January 2023. Aims to expand the tax credit for a portion of the employer-paid Social Security taxes for employee cash tips to include beauty service establishments.

S.1690 Keeping Our Promise to Small Businesses Act 117th Congress
Introduced by Sen. Cardin (D-MD) and 2 others in May 2021. Aims to provide additional funding to the Small Business Administration for the Paycheck Protection Program, while providing new funding for more loan applications and giving preferences to entities that are women-, minority-, or veteran-owned.

H.R.6301 Small Business Administration (SBA) Reaching all Communities Act of 2020 116th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Velazquez (D, NY-7) and 2 others in March 2020. Aims to establish measures to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19 in several ways, including providing SBA resources and services in the 10 most commonly spoken languages, other than English, in the United States, including Korean.

SMALL BUSINESS



KAGC supports small businesses facing challenges to capital access, lack of technical assistance, and shortage of awareness due to language barriers.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States. The overall AAPI population grew from 18.5 million to 25.6 million between 2010 and 2020, and is projected to become the nation's largest immigrant group by 2060 at 46 million.²³ **The overall Korean population grew from 1,730,238²⁴ to 1,962,184²⁵ between 2010 and 2021.**

Approximately 10% of businesses are owned by individuals of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent.²⁶ Also, Asian Americans wield significant economic influence, with their nearly two million small businesses generating an impressive \$700 billion in annual GDP and providing employment to approximately 3.5 million individuals. However, the widely held perception of Asian Americans being the "model minority" by succeeding and assimilating in society leads to overlooked barriers preventing AAPI groups from true social equity. As a consequence of these perceived successes, they are often excluded from diversity initiatives, resulting in underrepresentation in business and politics, and leaving many without adequate support in navigating persistent language barriers.²⁷

BACKGROUND

- Despite the pandemic recovery efforts and the launch of the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans in April 2020, unfamiliarity with the application and documentation process, and lack of existing banking relationships with lenders, resulted in AAPI businesses struggling to receive support.²⁸
- It is important to address these challenges and provide language assistance, technical assistance, and awareness-building efforts to support Asian American small businesses in overcoming these barriers and accessing the necessary resources for their success.

CHALLENGE

- Findings from the 2021 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal that 29.7% of Korean Americans do not speak English fluently, indicating that language access will still pose as a barrier for many members of the community.²⁹
- According to National ACE, more than half of Asian Americans business lack confidence in their ability to secure financing for purchase orders or contracts, or negotiate volume discounts for inventory purchases.³⁰
- Similarly, 69% of Asian Americans express doubt in their ability to afford property or equipment purchases.³¹
- AAPI entrepreneurs are unfamiliar with capital resources, including the Community Financial Institutions (44%) and Minority Depository Institutions (41%).³²
- Government-mandated resources and guidelines are not readily available in the Korean language, making it difficult for small business owners to follow regulations.

SMALL BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create and implement programs that provide translation services, bilingual resources, and support in multiple languages to help Asian American small businesses overcome language barriers in accessing information, including application processes, documentation, access to capital, and other relevant areas.
- Offer technical assistance programs that provide guidance, training, and mentorship to Asian American small businesses in financial management, business planning, marketing, and operations.
- Launch targeted outreach campaigns, community workshops, and educational events to raise awareness among Asian American small business owners about available resources, programs, and opportunities for capital access, financial management, and business development.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.3072 **COACH Act** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Williams [D, GA-5] in May 2021. Aim to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to publish or update a resource guide for small business concerns operating as child care providers, and for other purposes. Also, the Administrator shall publish the resource guide required in English and in the 10 most commonly spoken languages, other than English, in the United States, which shall include Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean.

H.R.6301 **Small Business Administration (SBA) Reaching all Communities Act of 2020** 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Chu (D, CA-27) and 24 others in March 2020. Aims to place requirements on the Small Business Administration to provide resources and services to small businesses in the 10 most common, spoken languages, other than English, in the United States, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean.

Further information on the relevant legislation, research material, and reference articles available upon request.

IMMIGRATION



KAGC supports comprehensive immigration reform and protection for undocumented immigrant youth.

As a predominantly immigrant community, the Korean American community supports comprehensive immigration reform. Updating the current immigration system will protect our national security, keep our families together, and revitalize our economy.

BACKGROUND

- The current immigration policy has largely remained unchanged since 1965.
- As of September 30th, 2022, approximately 5,510 of active DACA recipients were estimated to have been born in South Korea, which ranks 6th among the top countries of origin.³³
- As of September 30th, 2022, a total of 38,181 DACA applications have been approved for those born in South Korea, placing the country within the top 5 among countries of origin.³⁴

CHALLENGE

- The future of DACA, the policy implemented by an Executive Order to permit some individuals who arrived in the U.S. as undocumented children to receive a renewable two-year period of temporary protection from deportation, is unclear.
- The lack of major updates to the current U.S. immigration policy has resulted in backlogs in naturalization applications and in family-based migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Save DACA and TPS; Adopt a permanent legislative solution to the current crisis by creating a pathway to citizenship for the nation's 10.5 million undocumented immigrants.
- Provide U.S.-educated, undocumented young immigrants (also known as DREAMers) who came to the U.S. through no fault of their own with a faster track to legal residency.
- Clear the existing backlog of naturalization applications.
- Prioritize family unity by eliminating barriers to family reunification and by creating a process "for eligible individuals who are deported, detained, or in sanctuary" to reunite with their families and return to the United States.
- Protect the human rights and civil liberties of undocumented immigrants, such as by preventing disclosing information from applications to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), except to implement the program.

IMMIGRATION

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

S.365 **Dream Act of 2023** 118th Congress

Introduced by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Graham (R-SC) in February 2023. Aims to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S.264 **Dream Act of 2021** 117th Congress

Introduced by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Graham (R-SC) in February 2021. Aims to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

H.R.1177 / S.348 **U.S. Citizenship Act** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Sánchez (D, CA-38) 153 others in February 2021, as well as by Senator Menendez (D-NJ) and 26 others in January 2019. Aims to establish a path to citizenship for certain undocumented individuals.

H.R.6 **American Dream and Promise Act of 2019** 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D, CA-40) and 232 others in March 2019 and passed the House of Representatives in June 2019. Aims to cancel and prohibit removal proceedings against certain undocumented immigrants and provide such undocumented immigrants with a path toward permanent resident status.

Further information on the relevant legislation, research material, and reference articles available upon request.

Number of Form I-821 D, Consideration of DACA³⁵

Status, by Fiscal Year, Quarter,
and Case Status: Aug. 15, 2012–Sep. 30, 2022

Country of Birth	Approved to Date
Mexico	2,746,027
El Salvador	130,598
Guatemala	88,444
Honduras	81,566
South Korea	38,181
Peru	37,637
Brazil	29,573
⋮	⋮
All countries	3,457,666

Approximate Active DACA Recipients: Country of Birth³⁶

As of September 30, 2022

Country of Birth	Number (Rounded)
Mexico	476,600
El Salvador	22,940
Guatemala	15,570
Honduras	14,300
Peru	5,560
South Korea	5,510
Brazil	4,500
⋮	⋮
All countries	589,660

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DIVERSITY



KAGC calls for a biennial survey of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among all staff in the legislative branch.

According to the 2022 report on “Racial Diversity Among Top Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives” by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, “people of color make up 40% of the U.S. population, but only 18% of all top House staff.” Similarly, “No Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI), biracial, Middle Eastern/North African (MENA), or Native American serves in any of the 41 committee staff director positions or any of the top 20 staff positions in the top leadership offices of either party.”³⁷

To expand the diversity of the legislative staff and to ensure that our government truly reflects the country it serves, both chambers of Congress should adopt a rule to mandate a survey of data on demographics of its staff members, similar to that practiced in the executive branch. The profile on membership of each Congress, published by the Congressional Research Service on a regular basis, can serve as a benchmark for such a report.

In the words of the pioneer of Management Consulting, Peter Drucker, “If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.”

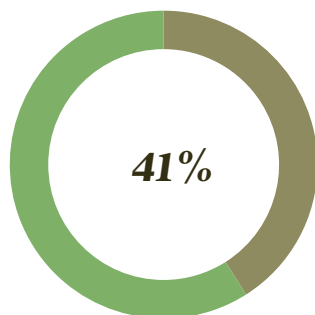
BACKGROUND

- The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has published a report on executive branch employment by gender and race/national origin from 2006 – 2017.
- In 2023, the White House Initiative on Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander released the first-ever National Strategy to Advance Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for AA and NHPI communities to model diversity, equity, and inclusion in the federal government and improve the recruitment of AA and NHPI within federal agencies.
- As of 2022, 6 Korean American elected officials are serving in the federal government, at least 26 serving in state governments, and at least 73 serving in local governments across the United States.

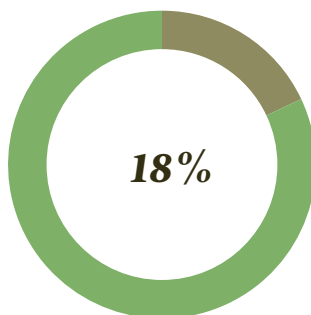
CHALLENGE

- In the U.S. OPM report released in 2017, when the latest report was published, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Americans accounted for only 6.5% of the overall workforce serving in the executive branch of the federal government.³⁸
- The legislative branch, in contrast, does not assess or publish such a report on its workforce.
- The limited analysis published by the Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative from June 2022 shows that on average, 10.46% of the staff in the Democratic Senate offices are AAPI – and only 11.7% of the Democratic staff in all the Senate committee offices.³⁹
- This trailing trend is not limited to the AAPI community, but applies to all minority communities.

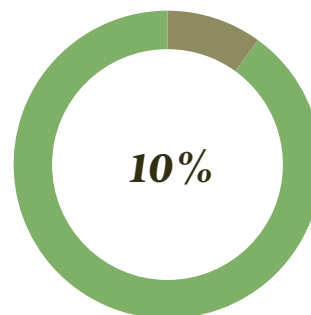
DIVERSITY



Percentage of people of color in the U.S. population ⁴⁰



Percentage of people of color among top House staff ⁴¹



Percentage of AAPI staff in Democratic Senators' offices ⁴²

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Publish a biennial survey of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among all staff in the legislative branch

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.Res.1331 **Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Kilmer (D, WA-6) and Rep. Timmons (R, SC-4) and 2 others in September 2022. Aims to carry out recommendations issued by the Select Committee on Modernization of Congress by consulting with the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion to develop options for talent acquisition. Also directs the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion to consult with the Committee on House Administration.

Executive Order 14035: **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the Federal Workforce** June 21, 2021

Directs the federal government to coordinate a government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce and expand its scope to include equity and accessibility. Provides agencies with information, resources, and methodology to assess the current state of DEIA in their workforce. Issue a government-wide DEIA Strategic Plan, including a framework to address workplace harassment and a data-driven approach to increase transparency and accountability. Establish a reporting system for agencies to submit plans.

H.Res.756 **Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution** 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Kilmer (D, WA-6) and 11 others, based on the bipartisan report adopted by the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, in December 2019 and passed the House in March 2020. Aims to direct the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion to report to the House Administration Committee a plan to ensure and expand diversity in hiring, training, and retaining practices in the House of Representatives.

Further information on the relevant legislation, research material, and reference articles available upon request.

DIVERSITY



KAGC calls for increased federal oversight of hate crimes, discrimination, and racially charged violence.

Since the arrival of the first Asian migrants to the United States, Asian Americans have been subject to violence and discrimination based on xenophobia and racism. In 1992, when major civil unrest broke out in Los Angeles, CA, the Korean American community quickly became the target of violence, accounting for over \$400 million in losses, or 45% of the total damages. Due to racial bias against the Korean American community, the Korean American businesses received little to no help from the authorities, as well.⁴³

As the COVID-19 pandemic started ravaging the United States in early 2020, the FBI issued a warning against a surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans.⁴⁴ A report published by the San Francisco State University in March 2020 likewise found a 50 percent rise in the number of news articles related to the coronavirus and anti-Asian discrimination in the month of February alone⁴⁵ and additional 800 COVID-related hate incidents against Asian Americans in California between March and June 2020.⁴⁶

In the year 2020, reported crimes revealed that a majority, specifically 63%, of motivation biases were identified to be associated with race, ethnicity and ancestry.⁴⁷ Furthermore, according to Pew Research Center, the percentage of Asian adults who have been subject to slurs due to their race or ethnicity after the onset of the pandemic surpasses the rate of similar experiences in all other demographic groups.⁴⁸

BACKGROUND

- Racially charged violence and discrimination have been on the rise over the past few years.
- Eight people including six Asian American women who were killed by Robert Aaron Long at spas across in the Atlanta area in March 2021.⁴⁹
- Three Korean women injured by Jeremy Theron Smith at Dallas Koreatown hair salon on March 2022.⁵⁰

CHALLENGE

- The COVID-19 Hate Crime Act passed Congress in 2021, but more public resources and preventive measures are needed for proper implementation and effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take swift legislative action to prevent such violence and protect racial minorities.
- Increase federal government oversight of such incidents.
- Track more accurately of such incidents.
- Implement measures to prevent such incidents on the federal level and assist state and local governments to achieve the same goals.

DIVERSITY

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.1091 **Stop Hate Crimes Act of 2023** 118th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Lieu (D, CA-36) in February 2023 and 19 others. Aims to lower the statutory burden of proof for showing intent with respect to a federal hate crime offense.

H.R.2539 **Education Against Hate Crimes Act of 2021** 117th Congress

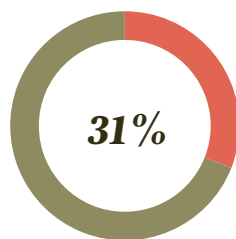
Introduced by Rep. Velazquez (D, NY-7) and 8 others in April 2021. Aims to require the Department of Education to award competitive grants to states, local educational agencies, and nonprofit organizations to conduct hate crime prevention and prejudice reduction education for secondary school students and students in middle grades. Also requires the Education Department to consult with the DHS and DOJ to develop curriculum requirements.

H.R.1843 / S.937 **COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act** 117th Congress

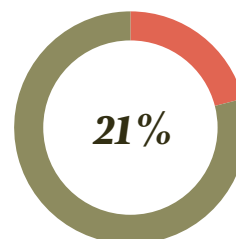
Introduced by Rep. Meng (D, NY-6) and 181 others, and then also by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and 44 others in March 2021. Aims to require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to designate an officer or employee who will facilitate the expedited review of hate crimes and reports of hate crimes. Additionally, the bill seeks to establish grants for states to create state-run hate crimes reporting hotlines.

Presidential Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States th January 26th 2021

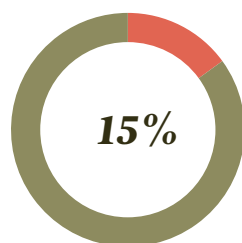
Issued by President Biden in January 2021. Aimed to direct the federal government to combat racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to direct the Attorney General to support state and local governments in prevention of discrimination, harassment and hate crimes against AAPI individuals, as well as the collection and reporting of such data.



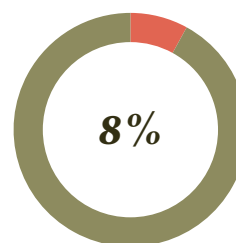
Percentage of **Asian American** Adults who have experienced racial slurs because of their race and ethnicity during the pandemic⁵¹



Percentage of **Black** Adults who have experienced racial slurs because of their race and ethnicity during the pandemic



Percentage of **Hispanic** Adults who have experienced racial slurs because of their race and ethnicity during the pandemic



Percentage of **White** Adults who have experienced racial slurs because of their race and ethnicity during the pandemic

DIVERSITY



KAGC recommends federal efforts to provide necessary resources to language minorities in sharing public information.

On August 11, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13166, which is known as "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." This order mandates that all Federal agencies assess the services they provide to determine if there is a need to provide services to individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP).⁵²

According to a report by the Migration Policy Institute, more than 25 million people in the United States have difficulty understanding English. This population faces significant challenges when trying to access and comprehend official documents, including legal forms, healthcare information, and educational materials. When people have limited English proficiency, it can cause negative outcomes, such as difficulty obtaining necessary medical care, limited job opportunities, and reduced access to education. Although there are laws in place that require some documents to be provided in languages other than English, compliance with these laws is not always enforced, leading to further difficulties for people who struggle with English.⁵³

BACKGROUND

- Public information on business regulations, health advisory, and other critical topics can be inundating and rapidly changing, especially in the face of crisis.
- The 2021 American Community Survey published by the U.S. Census Bureau found that 29.7% of Korean Americans speak English less than "very well."⁵⁴

CHALLENGE

- Although there are laws in place that require some documents to be provided in languages other than English, compliance with these laws is not always enforced, leading to further difficulties for people who struggle with English.⁵⁵

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide necessary resources to language minorities in multiple languages in sharing critical public information.
- Direct state and local government to identify the needs for language assistance in their jurisdiction, in a manner similar to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.
- Establish specific guidelines for language assistance and assist state and local governments to follow such guidelines.

DIVERSITY

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.1009 COVID-19 Language Access Act 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Meng (D, NY-6) and 49 others in February 2021. Aims to requires each federal agency that receives federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic to translate any English language written material prepared for the general public relating to the pandemic, including COVID-19 vaccine distribution and education, into specified languages not later than seven days after such material is made available in English, including Korean.

H.R.6623 COVID-19 Language Access Act 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Meng (D, NY-6) and 54 others in April 2020. Aims to require each federal agency that receives federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic to translate any English language written material prepared for the general public relating to the pandemic into specified languages not later than seven days after such material is made available in English, including Korean.

Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency 107th Congress

The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with limited English proficiency (LEP), and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

MENTAL HEALTH



KAGC calls for holistic and comprehensive measures to ensure the wellbeing of Asian American and Pacific Islander and Korean Americans against a background of inaccessible mental health services, cultural taboos, and stigmas perpetuating declining mental health.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, substantial mental health declines in the US population were reported by the Center of Disease Control (CDC). According to their report, about 40.9% of respondents encountered adverse mental or behavioral conditions including those of anxiety disorders, suicidal ideation, increased substance usage, and trauma- and stressor-related disorder (TSRD) symptoms related to COVID-19. Of these trends, AAPI and Korean American communities face significant challenges due to increased racial tensions, cultural taboos, and language access barriers that prevent alleviation from mental distress.⁵⁶

Historically, Asian American elders have utilized the least amount of mental health services. Certain older Asian Americans may be hesitant to access mental health services for themselves or their family members due to the desire to maintain their family's pride and honor in accordance with traditional Asian values and attitudes, commonly known as "saving face."⁵⁷

Due to greater awareness and support for data collection among APIA groups, research findings of reported hate incidents during the pandemic from 2020 - 2021 have shown that Asian American elders were significantly more likely to be the target of frequent and greater degree of severity of anti-Asian hate crimes. While anti-Asian hate contributed to increased harassment and civil rights violations across all age groups, more than a quarter of incidents reported were of Asian American elders who were victims of physical assault. The surveys also revealed that 98% of Asian American elders, who experienced hate crimes, believed that the United States had become more physically dangerous, and were more likely to report experiencing elevated fear, stress and anxiety.⁵⁸

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, high schoolers reported feeling anxious about possible incidents that could occur due to their race.⁵⁹ Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, among the Korean American high school students in New Jersey and New York, 31.5% reported that they experienced bullying and 15.9% reported being aggressive victims. These students also reported higher levels of depression.⁶⁰

BACKGROUND

- Physical manifestations of poor mental health (often referred to as “hwa-byung”, or “suppressed anger”), are not treated with seriousness, as evidenced by the American Psychiatric’s Association’s decision to remove the term “suppressed anger” from its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.⁶¹
- In 2020, nearly 30% of older Korean American immigrants were found to have experienced mental distress, which is significantly greater than the national samples of the U.S. population. Despite this large percentage, only 5.7% of those respondents have used professional mental health services.⁶²
- Korean American high school students also report feeling nervousness when returning to campus as a result of racist bullying. In response, many state groups have rallied around inclusive education that commemorates the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States⁶³

MENTAL HEALTH

CHALLENGE

- Though mental health has been an increasingly popular topic of public policy, there remains a large gap in its usage and accessibility for Korean American communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implement legislation advancing language accessibility in mental health services in federal, state, and local agencies across the nation.
- Educate mental health providers to be aware of cultural values and norms that may impact their patients' mental health.
- Fund for mental health programs that target the Asian community, as well as creating policies that ensure access to culturally sensitive mental health services for Asian Americans.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

S.1452 A bill to promote mental wellness and resilience and prevent mental health, behavioral health, and psychosocial conditions through developmentally and culturally appropriate community programs, and award grants for the purposes of establishing, operating, or expanding community-based mental wellness and resilience programs, and for other purposes. 118th Congress
Introduced by Sen. Markey (D-MA), and 3 others in May 2023, this bill seeks to promote mental wellness and resilience.

H.R.5937 / S.4677 Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act of 2021 117th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Meng (D, NY-6) and 32 others in November 2021, and Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) and 5 others in July 2022, this bill seeks to increase language access to mental health services at certain health centers, and for other purposes.

H.R.1475 / S.1795 Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act 117th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Coleman (D, NJ-12) and 62 others in March 2021, and Sen. Menendez (D-NJ) and 14 others in May 2021, this bill establishes and expands programs to address racial and ethnic disparities in mental health by establishing grants for areas with a high proportion of racial and ethnic minority groups and developing a strategy to combat stigmas associated with substance use disorders and mental health conditions.

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATIONS



KAGC calls for reforms to election administrations with increased language access and other measures in order to ensure the voting rights of all Americans.

Throughout the 20th century, several laws have been enacted to ensure the civil rights of Americans of all backgrounds. Though Asian Americans were permitted to become citizens in 1943 and to vote in 1952, our Constitutional rights to suffrage as American citizens had been repeatedly violated until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 took effect.

After 10 years of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, an amendment called Section 230 officially recognized the need to provide electoral information in languages other than English due to reliance on other languages by many Americans. Such assistance significantly lowered the barriers to polling places for millions of voters.⁶⁴

BACKGROUND

- Public interest in political participation has risen in recent years. The 2020 election demonstrated the highest turnout rate in over a century.⁶⁵
- In 2020, AAPI voters' turnout growth rate was 39% compared to 2016, the highest among various ethnic groups.⁶⁶

CHALLENGE

- Election laws vary greatly from state to state, sometimes resulting in disenfranchisement of certain groups of population.
- Many Americans find the voter registration process and election system difficult to follow.⁶⁷
- According to a 2017 study by the University of California, San Diego, it is clearly demonstrated that strict identification laws have a negative impact on the turnout of racial and ethnic minorities in elections.⁶⁸

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fund local governments with efforts on outreach, more accurate measurement of language needs, and providing language assistance.
- If strict voter ID laws are present, allow for easier mechanisms and help voters to obtain such an ID.
- Shorten wait times to vote.
- Allow same-day voter registration.
- Adopt and extend early voting periods.
- Ensure adequate access to ballot dropboxes and safety of such receptacles.
- Make election day a national holiday.

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATIONS

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.4 / S.4 **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Sewell (D, AL-7) and 223 others in August 2021, as well as by Sen. Leahy (D-VT) and 48 others in October 2021. Aims to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act.

H.R.4 / S.561 **Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019** 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Sewell (D, AL-7) and 229 others, as well as by Sen. Leahy (D-VT) and 46 others in February 2019. Aimed to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act.

H.R.3295 **Help America Vote Act** 107th Congress

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress in 2002 to make reforms to the nation's voting process. By creating new mandatory minimum standards for election administrators, HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election.

12.7%

Naturalized citizens are 12.7% less likely to vote in general elections than in states with strict voter ID laws.⁶⁹

5.4%

Asian American turnout is 5.4 percentage points lower in states with photo ID than in states without strict photo ID regulations.

2x

The gap in the participation rate between whites and non-whites in elections doubles in states with strict voter ID laws, indicating an intrinsic racial disadvantage.



“

WE FOUND THAT ID LAWS HAD A DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECT ON NATURALIZED CITIZENS AND THE FOREIGN BORN GENERALLY.

Prof. Hajnal, Prof. Lajevardi, and Dr. Nielson

KOREAN LANGUAGE AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN ELECTIONS

Voting Rights Act: Sections 203 and 4(f) (4)

The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 to ensure all Americans' equal and fair access to the polling place. Sections 203 and 4(f)(4), also known as the Language Minority Provision, were amended in 1975 and reauthorized in 1982 and 1992. In 2006, the sunset date on minority language assistance provisions set forth in Section 203 of the Act was extended to August 5, 2032. In short, Section 203 prescribes that, in order to guarantee an equal opportunity to voting participation by citizens of language minorities, a state or local government provide voting materials in languages other than English where a need for a specific language is demonstrated. More specifically:

> 10,000

The minimum number of voting-age citizens with limited English proficiency who speak the same language.⁷⁰

OR

> 5%

The minimum proportion of LEP voting-age citizens who speak the same language.

AND

Illiteracy

The illiteracy rate of LEP citizens who speak the same language must exceed the national illiteracy rate.



COUNTIES IN WHICH **BALLOTS** ARE AVAILABLE IN KOREAN

- Bergen County, NJ
- Queens County, NY
- Orange County, CA
- Los Angeles County, CA
- San Francisco County, CA
- Fairfax County, VA
- King County, WA
- Gwinnett County, GA

STATES IN WHICH **VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS** ARE AVAILABLE IN KOREAN

- New Jersey
- New York
- California
- Virginia
- Washington
- Georgia
- Maryland

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATIONS



KAGC recommends the establishment of a national standard for maintaining voter data in each state and local government

While voter fraud rarely takes place⁷¹, the quality of digital voter rolls and related databases varies greatly across the United States—even among the counties within the same state, such as Pennsylvania.⁷² Such inconsistency may lead to public confusion in electoral participation and even undermine the public trust in the integrity of the election process, and thus, American democracy.

Furthermore, the process to request public access to such information differs across each state and local government. In states like Illinois, the voter roll is not available for the general public and is only accessible for political committees.⁷³ Yet in other states, such as Alabama, purchasing the voter roll from the Secretary of State's Office is open to those who can afford to pay for the fee.⁷⁴

BACKGROUND

- State and local governments maintain digital rolls of the registered voters within its jurisdiction.
- Voter rolls are constantly changing as it undergoes constant modifications due to new voter registrations, movement of existing registrants, name changes, deaths, and other factors that may render them ineligible.⁷⁵
- According to the Brennan Center for Justice, "Approximately 40 states are using voter registration databases that were initially created at least a decade ago. Many of these aging databases were not designed to withstand 21st century cybersecurity threats and desperately need to be upgraded and strengthened."⁷⁶
- In recent years, election experts have called for increased oversight into the security of voter registration databases. Some action has taken place at the federal level, but the tampering of voter rolls by foreign cyberattacks continues to undermine the trust of voters⁷⁷
- "More attention to securing voting systems hasn't eliminated critical technical and human threats to our elections," said Matthew Weil, executive director of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Democracy Program. "And this cycle is practice for 2024."⁷⁸

CHALLENGE

- Many state and local governments have practiced arbitrary "purges" of voter rolls that have resulted in massive confusions and errors across the United States.
- The resources afforded by each government to maintain such databases and ensure cybersecurity vary greatly.
- Such disparities sometimes lead to public confusion and ineffective use of government resources in election administrations.

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create and implement measures for cybersecurity.
- Establish a clear national standard for voter data quality, scope and frequency for public disclosure on the status of relevant databases, and criteria and procedure for data purges in each state and local government.
- Mandate public notice before election officials conduct large-scale voter purges.
- Mandate individual notice before a person is removed from the rolls, with an opportunity to correct errors.
- Mandate state and local governments to allow wrongly removed voters to cast a ballot that counts on Election Day.
- Increase the role of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to provide necessary technical assistance and nationally share best practices.
- Provide EAC and local governments with federal support to raise their practice to the standard.
- Standardize the mechanism and criteria for obtaining voter rolls by the public.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.156 **Restoring Faith in Elections Act** 118th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Fitzpatrick (R, PA-1), Brian K (R, PA-1) in January 2023. Aims to ensure election integrity and security and enhance Americans' access to the ballot box by establishing consistent standards and procedures for voter registration and voting in elections for federal office, and for other purposes.

H.R.1 / S.1 **For the People Act of 2021** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Sarbanes (D, MD-3) and 222 others in January 2021, as well as by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) and 48 others in March 2021. Aims to address voter access, election integrity, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government.

H.R.12 / S.3309 **Voter Empowerment Act of 2015** 114th Congress

Introduced by the late Rep. Lewis (D, GA-5) and 187 others in March 2015. Aims to require states to make available online voter registration; authorize automated voter registration, same-day voter registration, pre-registration of individuals under 18 years of age.

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Created a regulatory floor for state maintenance of voter registration rolls, providing rules and guidelines for maintaining voter list rolls



Ballot drop box in Hackensack, NJ in Ju/Jl 2020 (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

“

SOME VOTING EQUIPMENT TODAY WORKS WITH OLD OPERATING SYSTEMS—Windows XP or 2000—AND DATA STORAGE DEVICES WE WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH TODAY.

Wendy Underhill ⁷⁹

*Director of Elections and Redistricting
the National Conference of State Legislatures*

U.S.-Korea Relations: Security



KAGC promotes a stronger alliance between the United States and Korean armed forces.

BACKGROUND

- The United States and the Republic of Korea have shared a strong alliance since the armistice of the Korean War in 1953.
- South Korea is home to over 28,500 active and reserve American troops, as well as civilian staff, stationed in dozens of military facilities across South Korea, including 15 major bases.⁸⁰
- U.S. and South Korean troops have conducted major training exercises every spring and summer together⁸¹ under the auspices of Combined Forces Command and have cooperated in at least 8 security missions⁸² around the globe.
- The ROK pays about \$1 billion annually, representing an increase of about 13.9% over previous Special Measures Agreements⁸³, and spends more on its defense as a percentage of GDP than most US treaty allies.⁸⁴
- In the past, South Korea has generally paid for 40–50% (over \$800 million annually) of the total non-personnel costs of maintaining the U.S. troop presence in South Korea.⁸⁵
- The ROK government is spending \$9.7 billion (90% of the total cost of construction) for Camp Humphreys, the largest American military base overseas and home to the busiest airfield of the U.S. Army in Asia.⁸⁶ Korea is also a top buyer of U.S. arms in Asia.⁸⁷
- A number of opinion polls demonstrate that the majority of the American public, both Republican and Democrat, support the U.S. policy to defend South Korea.⁸⁸
- 72% support long-term US military bases in South Korea.⁸⁹
- When it comes to defending South Korea against a North Korean invasion, a majority of Koreans (55%) support using US troops to defend South Korea if North Korea invades.⁹⁰
- South Korea is one of the United States' most important strategic partners, bound together by mutual respect, common interests, and shared values—such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.



Members of the USFK and Korean Armed Forces after a joint exercise in Korea (Photo by AP)



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and South Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol meeting in Seoul on September 29, 2022.

U.S.-Korea Relations: Security

CHALLENGE

- The rapid development in the U.S. geostrategic policy towards the Korean peninsula has presented new kinds of challenges, leading to a more uncertain future.
- In April 2021, the U.S. and the Republic of Korea signed a Special Measures Agreement strategizing the presence of the US military on the peninsula.⁹¹ Although the SMAs were signed, the United States and the Republic of Korea lapsed twice in reaching a deal. Therefore, further consultations are needed to strengthen their continued alliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain and bolster the U.S. – Korea alliance as it is critically important for reasons beyond regional security, and is in the interest of both the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.
- Ensure continuity in the alliance by expanding the terms of agreements and reinforcing diplomatic coordination between the two nations, especially in the face of a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.4175 **United States and the Republic of Korea Alliance Support Act** 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Gallagher (R, WI-8) and 5 others in June 2021. Aims to prohibit the Department of Defense from reducing below 22,000 the number of active-duty service members deployed to South Korea unless DOD makes specified reports and certifications, including that such a reduction is in the interest of national security.

H.R. 7234 / S.4018 **We Go Together Act of 2020** 116th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Bera (D, CA-7) as well as by Sen. Markey (D-MA) in June 2020. Aims to place requirements on the president to report and certify to Congress before changing U.S. policy with respect to the U.S. –South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty.

Every Congress, a noteworthy number of bipartisan bills and resolutions are introduced in both chambers, including the annual National Defense Authorization Act which is passed in strong support of the U.S. –Korea security alliance.

Further information on the relevant legislation, research material, and reference articles available upon request.



PRESIDENT YOON AND PRESIDENT BIDEN REITERATE THEIR COMMON GOAL OF THE COMPLETE DENUCLEARIZATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND AGREE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE AIRTIGHT COORDINATION TO THIS END.

2022 United States–Republic of Korea Leaders’ Joint Statement

U.S.-Korea Relations: Security



KAGC supports fostering lasting peace, stability, and security on the Korean peninsula.

BACKGROUND

- Since the Korean War, the partnership between the United States and South Korea has expanded to include global economic policy coordination, nuclear cooperation, energy security, and cybersecurity.
- The core mission of the U.S. - Korea alliance lies on defending against a North Korean threat that has regional and global ramifications and on fostering lasting peace and security on the Korean peninsula.
- Polls show that there is an increased public support for engaging North Korea to solve the current security crisis. An October 2021 report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs finds that 76% of Americans support establishing diplomatic relations with North Korea, if they were to give up their nuclear weapons.⁹²

CHALLENGE

- A peaceful resolution of the North Korean crisis is a difficult and delicate process that would require a comprehensive, prolonged approach—yet the North Korean policy has been subject to inconsistency and abrupt changes over the years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy to foster a lasting peace, stability, and security on the Korean peninsula in close consultation with bipartisan members of Congress, as well as the Korean American community.



U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol meeting in Washington D.C. on April 26, 2023.

“To commemorate this historic year for our Alliance, President Biden and President Yoon have committed to develop an ever-stronger mutual defense relationship and affirm in the strongest words possible their commitment to the combined defense posture under the U.S. - ROK Mutual Defense Treaty.”

Washington Declaration

U.S.-Korea Relations: Security



KAGC calls for a humanitarian reunion between Korean Americans and their families in North Korea.

BACKGROUND

- As many as 300,000 Americans of Korean descent can trace their family history to North Korea.⁹³
- A 2001 estimate states that over 100,000 Korean Americans have no ability to communicate or visit their family members in North Korea.⁹⁴ Over the last seven decades, there have been more than 20 face-to-face family reunions⁹⁵ and 7 virtual reunions.⁹⁶ but that has ceased since August 2018.
- The U.S. Department of State, in collaboration with Divided Families USA, a partner organization of KAGC, has been maintaining a registry of impacted Korean American families interested in participating in such reunions.

CHALLENGE

- Participation in such reunions has been limited to South Korean nationals and North Korean residents only.
- Reunions are becoming increasingly difficult as many divided family members are growing older, suffering from multiple health conditions, living in nursing homes, or receiving care from their adult children.⁹⁷

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a formal mechanism for promoting humanitarian reunions between divided families in the United States and North Korea.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.Res.126 Encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families 118th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Kim (R, CA-40) and 16 others in February 2023. Aims to call on the United States and North Korea to begin the process of reuniting Korean Americans with their immediate relatives in North Korea.

H.R.826 / S.2688 Divided Families Reunification Act 117th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Meng (D, NY-6) and 27 others in February 2021 as well as by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) and 9 others in August 2021. Aims to direct the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues shall periodically report to Congress on its consultations with representatives of Korean Americans with family in North Korea on reunification efforts.

H.R.7900 / H.R.7776 / S.4543 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 117th Congress
Introduced by Rep. Smith (D, WA-9) in May 2022, Rep. DeFazio (D, OR-4) as well as by Senator Reed (R-RI) in July 2022. Aims to authorize the Department of Defense (DOD) activities for FY2023 and addresses other issues, including divided Korean families in America and North Korea. On December 23, 2022, President Biden signed H.R. 7776 into law. The act includes provisions recommending a pathway to family reunification for divided families through Section 5599B. This recommends that the U.S. Secretary of State regularly consult with officials in South Korea and Korean American families to explore options for reunions between families.

U.S.-Korea Relations: Trade



KAGC supports measures to strengthen trade between the United States and Korea.

BACKGROUND

- Since the implementation of the Korea–U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) in 2012, foreign direct investments increased markedly, with the stock of South Korean FDI in the United States being \$72.5 billion, up 14.9% from 2020, and U.S. FDI to South Korea being \$38.1 billion in 2021.⁹⁸
- Trade with South Korea supported over 1.01 million jobs across the U.S in 2018.⁹⁹
- South Korea became the 7th largest export market for the U.S. in 2020, and the 6th largest goods trading partner overall.¹⁰⁰
- U.S. goods exports to Korea increased by 17.8% from what it was before the implementation of the FTA. In 2020, U.S. exports to Korea were \$51.2 billion or 32% larger than in 2010, and accounted for 3.6% of the overall size of U.S. exports.¹⁰¹
- South Korea is the 3rd largest export partner of the United States in the Indo–Pacific region. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID–19 pandemic, US–Korea trade in 2021 amounted to \$194.5 billion, with services exports alone exceeding \$19 billion, creating a \$6.9 billion services trade surplus.¹⁰²
- More than two–thirds (68%) of Americans say "South Korea practices fair trade with the United States."¹⁰³

CHALLENGE

- Trade relations with the Republic of Korea are threatened from time to time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build on the strong trade partnership between the U.S. and Korea for mutual benefits that extend beyond economic gains.

State	Jobs supported by trade with Korea ¹⁰⁴	State	Jobs	State	Jobs	State	Jobs
California	77,810	Nebraska	5,933	South Carolina	3,453	Oklahoma	1,014
Texas	49,844	Colorado	5,742	Arizona	3,373	Vermont	985
New York	15,966	Alaska	5,579	Missouri	3,105	New Hampshire	814
Illinois	12,749	Minnesota	5,436	Connecticut	3,092	Idaho	773
Massachusetts	11,173	North Carolina	5,311	Delaware	2,912	Arkansas	759
Washington	9,769	Kansas	4,859	Maryland	2,593	New Mexico	561
Oregon	8,781	Louisiana	4,591	Utah	2,543	West Virginia	514
New Jersey	8,456	Iowa	4,402	Nevada	2,066	Maine	494
Ohio	7,000	Virginia	4,289	Kentucky	2,041	Rhode Island	417
Florida	6,779	Indiana	4,156	North Dakota	1,559	Hawaii	345
Georgia	6,392	Tennessee	3,706	South Dakota	1,239	Wyoming	199
Pennsylvania	6,331	Wisconsin	3,689	Montana	1,146		
Michigan	6,270	Alabama	3,673	Mississippi	1,037		

U.S.-Korea Relations: Trade



KAGC supports more active exchange of workforce between the United States and Korea.

BACKGROUND

- Unlike other FTA’s that the U.S. has ratified with Chile, Australia, and Singapore, the KORUS-FTA does not allow for free exchanges of workforce between the two nations.

CHALLENGE

- Without the sufficient exchanges of workforce between the U.S. and Korea, many American businesses are kept from reaping the full benefits of KORUS FTA.
- Currently, the hiring of professionals of Korean nationality in the U.S. is constrained by the H-1B cap, which places Korean applicants at a significant disadvantage. As of FY 2021, only 3,481 South Korean applicants for H-1B were approved in comparison to 301,616 Indian and 50,328 Chinese nationals, where they account for a combined 86.5% of all H-1B applications.¹⁰⁵

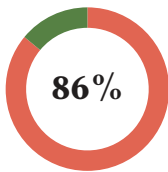
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amending the KORUS FTA to allow a freer exchange of workforce between the U.S. and South Korea is necessary to reap the full economic and social benefits that comes from the exchange of highly specialized human capital.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.3382 / S.1861 **Partner with Korea Act** 117th Congress
 Introduced by Sen. Blunt (R-MO) and 2 others and also by Rep. Connolly (D, VA-11) and 50 others in May 2021. Aims to create an E-4 treaty trader visa category for up to 15,000 nationals of South Korea each fiscal year who are coming to the United States to perform speciality occupation services, subject to various requirements.

H.R.1762 / S.843 **Partner with Korea Act** 116th Congress
 Introduced by Rep. Connolly (D, VA-11) and 53 others as well as by former Sen. Isakson (R-GA) and 2 others in March 2019. Aims to create an E-4 treaty trader visa category for up to 15,000 nationals of South Korea each fiscal year who are coming to the United States solely to perform speciality occupation services, subject to various requirements.



Portion of all approved H-1B visa applications claimed by Indian and Chinese nationals, according to the data published by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.¹⁰⁶

As of 2020, South Korea is one of the largest U.S. export markets in **MINERAL FUELS (\$8.6 BILLION), AGRICULTURE (\$7.8 BILLION), MACHINERY (\$7.8 BILLION), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (\$5.7 BILLION), OPTICAL AND MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS (\$3.3 BILLION), AND VEHICLES(\$2.8 BILLION).**¹⁰⁷

Overall, South Korea is 7th largest export market for U.S. and 6th largest trading partner. U.S. goods and services trade with South Korea exceeded \$154.9 billion in 2020.¹⁰⁸

U.S.-Korea Relations: Veterans Affairs



KAGC supports measures to honor and provide care for Korean American veterans of Vietnam War.

BACKGROUND

- As our key ally since the Korean War, the Republic of Korea participated in the Vietnam War to support the United States.
- From 1964 through 1973, the Republic of Korea sent an aggregate of 320,000 troops to Vietnam, exceeding the contribution level of troops by any free world military assistance forces in the conflict.¹⁰⁹ In 1972 and onwards, the presence of the Republic of Korea troops in Vietnam surpassed that of the United States.¹¹⁰
- In addition to its sheer volume, the Korean forces "outperformed other allied forces in Vietnam" in several ways, including "organization and professionalism."¹¹¹
- Military cooperation in the Vietnam War is one of several examples that demonstrate the robust alliance between the United States and Republic of Korea, through a shared commitment to uphold democratic principles for over the past seven decades.

CHALLENGE

- Some of the Korean veterans of the Vietnam War, now well in their 70s, have since immigrated to the United States, many of whom have become U.S. citizens by naturalization.
- Unlike the allied and foreign national veterans of World War I and World War II,¹¹² the Korean veterans are not eligible to receive medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognize the contribution of the veterans who have served in the Vietnam War as members of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea, and have since become U.S. citizens, by providing them with access to healthcare through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

H.R.366 Korean American VALOR Act 118th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Takano (D, CA-39) and 12 others in January 2023. Aims to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R.234 Korean American VALOR Act 117th Congress

Introduced by Rep. Takano (D, CA-41) and 14 others in January 2021. Aims to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Endnote

- ¹ United States Census Bureau. (2021). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042>
- ² United States Census Bureau. (2012). *Statistics for All U.S. Firms With Paid Employees by Industry, Race, and Employment Size of Firm for the U.S. and States: 2012*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?tid=SBOCS2012.SB1200CSA11&hidePreview=true>
- ³ United States Census Bureau. (2019). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042&tid=ACSSPPIY2019.S0201>
- ⁴ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2022). *Count of Active DACA Recipients By Month of Current DACA Expiration*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active_DACA_Recipients_Sept_FY22_qtr4.pdf
- ⁵ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2022). *Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Requests by Intake and Case Status, by Fiscal Year*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performancedata_fy2022_qtr4.pdf
- ⁶ Korea. Office of the United States Trade Representative. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/japan-korea-apec/korea>
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Baughman, L. & Francois, J. (2020). *Trade and American Jobs, The Impact of Trade on U.S. and State-Level Employment: 2020 Update*. (p. 23) Trade Partnership Worldwide LLC. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://s3.amazonaws.com/brt.org/Trade_and_American_obs_2020.pdf
- ⁹ U.S. Department of State. (2021, January 14). *U.S. Security Cooperation with Korea*. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-korea/>
- ¹⁰ *US Military Bases in South Korea*. Military Bases. (2018, March 7). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://militarybases.com/overseas/south-korea/>
- ¹¹ Martin-Montgomery et al. (2019). *U.S. Adoptee without Citizenship: National Estimates*. Adoptee Rights Campaign. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://adopteerightscampaign.org/research/>
- ¹² Ibid
- ¹³ Ibid
- ¹⁴ *Endorsements*. National Alliance for Adoptee Equality. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://sites.google.com/kagc.us/adoptee-equality/endorsements>
- ¹⁵ *Intercountry Adoption - adoption statistics*. United States Department of State. (2021). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption.html/>
- ¹⁶ United States Census Bureau. (2012). *Statistics for All U.S. Firms With Paid Employees by Industry, Race, and Employment Size of Firm for the U.S. and States: 2012*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?tid=SBOCS2012.SB1200CSA11&hidePreview=true>
- ¹⁷ Frauenfelder, M. (2016, July 27). *Asian-owned businesses nearing two million*. The United States Census Bureau. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2016/07/asian-owned-businesses-nearing-two-million.html>
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Madrid, M. (2021, March 30). *How you can support mom and pop businesses all year long*. U.S. Small Business Administration. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.sba.gov/blog/how-you-can-support-mom-pop-businesses-all-year-long>
- ²⁰ *Businesses Run by Minorities, Women and Vets Disproportionately Affected by Pandemic, Nist, Noaa Study Finds*. (2022, February 14). *National Institute of Standards and Technology*. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2022/02/businesses-run-minorities-women-and-vets-disproportionately-affected>
- ²¹ DePillis, L. (2022, July 26). *After Enduring a Pandemic, Small Businesses Face New Worries*. *The New York Times*. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/26/business/economy/small-business-recession.html?searchResultPosition=5>
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ *National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship Policy Agenda*. National ACE. (2023). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nationalace.org/advocacy>

Endnote

- ²⁴ United States Census Bureau. (2010). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042&tid=ACSSPPI Y2010.S0201>
- ²⁵ United States Census Bureau. (2021). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042>
- ²⁶ National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship Police Agenda. National ACE. (2023). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nationalace.org/advocacy>
- ²⁷ Covid-19 and advancing Asian American recovery . Asia society. (2020, August). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/McKins eyCo_COVID-19-and-advancing-Asian-American-recovery_0.pdf
- ²⁸ Asian American small businesses continue to reel from the weight of the battles they face on two fronts. Wells Fargo Stories. (2021, May 20). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://stories.wf.com/asian-american-small-businesses-continue-to-reel-from-the-weight-of-the-battles-they-face-on-two-fronts/>
- ²⁹ United States Census Bureau. (2021). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042>
- ³⁰ National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship Police Agenda. National ACE. (2023). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nationalace.org/advocacy>
- ³¹ Ibid
- ³² State of Asian American and Pacific Islander Business: Spring 2022 Survey. National ACE. (2022). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd45b834ed45716078d0628/t/62dedd3004ba030859ee2aa2/1658772784533/OVERALL+SPRING+2022+FINDINGS.pdf>
- ³³ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2022). *Count of Active DACA Recipients By Month of Current DACA Expiration*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active_DACA_Recipients_Sept_FY22_qtr4.pdf
- ³⁴ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2022). *Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Requests by Intake and Case Status, by Fiscal Year*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performance_data_fy2022_qtr4.pdf
- ³⁵ Ibid
- ³⁶ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2022). *Count of Active DACA Recipients By Month of Current DACA Expiration*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active_DACA_Recipients_Sept_FY22_qtr4.pdf
- ³⁷ Brenson, L. S. (2022, October 6). *Racial diversity among top staff in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://diversityonthehill.jointcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/vF_-_Racial-Diversity-Among-Top-Staff-in-the-U.S-House-of-Representatives-Report.pdf
- ³⁸ *Executive Branch Employment by Gender and Race/National Origin*. U.S. Office of Personnel Management. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/data-analysis-documentation/federal-employment-reports/reports-publications/executive-branch-employment-by-gender-and-racenational-origin/>
- ³⁹ *Diversity among U.S. Senate Democratic staff on June 30th, 2022*. Senate Democratic . (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/about-senate-dems/diversity-initiative/democratic-staff-survey-results-2022>
- ⁴⁰ *U.S. Census Bureau quickfacts: United States*. United States Census Bureau. (2021, July 1.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>
- ⁴¹ Brenson, L. S. (2022, October 6). *Racial diversity among top staff in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://diversityonthehill.jointcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/vF_-_Racial-Diversity-Among-Top-Staff-in-the-U.S-House-of-Representatives-Report.pdf
- ⁴² *Diversity among U.S. Senate Democratic staff on June 30th, 2022*. Senate Democratic . (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/about-senate-dems/diversity-initiative/democratic-staff-survey-results-2022>
- ⁴³ Banks, S. (2012, May 1). *The Damage Went Deep*. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2012-may-01-la-me-riot-koreans-20120501-story.html>

Endnote

- ⁴⁴ Margolin, J. (2020, March 27). *FBI warns of potential surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid coronavirus*. ABC News. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://abcnews.go.com/US/fbi-warns-potential-surge-hate-crimes-asian-americans/story?id=69831920>
- ⁴⁵ Jeung, R., Takasaki, K., & Gowing, S. (2020). *News Accounts of COVID-19 Discrimination*. A3PCON and CAA. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/content/dam/inclusive_vt_edu/linwood-practice/Coronavirus%20Discrimination%20in%20the%20News%202_9_3_7_20.pdf
- ⁴⁶ *Over 800 COVID-19-Related Hate Incidents Against Asian Americans Take Place in California in Three Months*. A3PCON. (2020, June 6). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/CA_Report_6_30_20.pdf
- ⁴⁷ *Raising Awareness of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. The United States Department of Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.justice.gov/file/1507346/download>.
- ⁴⁸ Ruiz, N., Horowitz, J., & Tamir, C. (2020, July 1). *Many black and Asian Americans say they have experienced discrimination amid the COVID-19 outbreak*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/07/01/man-y-black-and-asian-americans-say-they-have-experienced-discrimination-amid-the-covid-19-outbreak/>
- ⁴⁹ Fausset, R., Bogel-Burroughs, N., & Fazio, M. (2021, March 17). *8 dead in Atlanta spa shootings, with fears of Anti-Asian bias*. The New York Times. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/17/us/shooting-atlanta-acworth>
- ⁵⁰ Silva, C. D., Chirbas, K., & Lenthang, M. (2022, May 17). *Dallas salon shooting is hate crime, suspect had 'panic attacks and delusions' around Asian people, police say*. NBC News. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/police-arrest-suspect-dallas-hair-salon-shooting-fbi-hate-crime-probe-rcna29152>
- ⁵¹ Ruiz, N., Horowitz, J., & Tamir, C. (2020, July 1). *Many black and Asian Americans say they have experienced discrimination amid the COVID-19 outbreak*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/07/01/man-y-black-and-asian-americans-say-they-have-experienced-discrimination-amid-the-covid-19-outbreak/>
- ⁵² *Executive order 13166*. The United States Department of Justice. (2022, November 21). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.justice.gov/crt/executive-order-13166>
- ⁵³ Pandya, C., Batalova, J., & Mchugh, M. (2011). *Limited English proficient individuals in the United States: Number, share, growth, and linguistic diversity*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/limited-english-proficient-individuals-united-states-number-share-growth-and-linguistic>
- ⁵⁴ United States Census Bureau. (2021). *SELECTED POPULATION PROFILE IN THE UNITED STATES*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=korean&t=042&tid=ACSSP1Y2021.S0201>
- ⁵⁵ Pandya, C., Batalova, J., & Mchugh, M. (2011). *Limited English proficient individuals in the United States: Number, share, growth, and linguistic diversity*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/limited-english-proficient-individuals-united-states-number-share-growth-and-linguistic>
- ⁵⁶ Czeisler MÉ, Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. *Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic – United States, June 24–30, 2020*. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:1049–1057. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1externalicon>
- ⁵⁷ UCF School of Social Work (Ed.). (2020, July 30). *Understanding the unique needs of mental healthcare for elderly Asian Americans*. College of Health Professions and Sciences. <https://healthprofessions.ucf.edu/news/understanding-the-unique-needs-of-mental-healthcare-for-elderly-asian-americans/>
- ⁵⁸ Jeung, R., Yellow Horse, A. J., Chen, T., Saw, A., Tang, B., Lo, A., Ro, M., Schweng, L., Krishnamurthy, S., Chan, W., Chu, M., & Cho, C. (2022, May 24). *Anti-Asian Hate, Social Isolation, and Mental Health among Asian American Elders during COVID-19*. Latest Reports. Retrieved May 5, 2023, from <https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SAH-Elder-Report-526.pdf>
- ⁵⁹ Henry, M. (2021, August 3). *'my race ... is not a joke.'* *Asian American students speak out against racism in schools*. The Columbus Dispatch. Retrieved April 25, 2023, from <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2021/08/02/asian-american-students-bullied-racism-hate-columbus-schools/8018722002/>
- ⁶⁰ Shin, D'Antonio, Son, Kim, & Park (2011) *Bullying and discrimination experiences among Korean American adolescents*. *Journal of Adolescence*, 34, 873–883.

Endnote

- ⁶¹ Park, J. (2022, September 28). *From BTS to zoom therapy, why Korean Americans are seeking more mental health help*. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved May 5, 2023, from <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-28/from-bts-to-zoom-therapy-why-korean-americans-are-seeking-more-mental-health-help-how-to-save-a-life>
- ⁶² *ibid*
- ⁶³ Shin, D'Antonio, Son, Kim, & Park (2011) *Bullying and discrimination experiences among Korean American adolescents*. *Journal of Adolescence*, 34, 873-883.
- ⁶⁴ *Electionline.org Briefing*. The Pew Charitable Trusts. (2006, October). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/election_reform/electionlinetranslati ngvote1006pdf.pdf
- ⁶⁵ Montanaro, D. (2020, November 25). *President-elect Joe Biden hits 80 million votes in year of record turnout*. NPR. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/25/937248659/president-elect-biden-hits-80-million-votes-in-year-of-record-turnout>
- ⁶⁶ Ghitza, Y., & Robinson, J. (n.d.). *What happened in 2020 national analysis*. Catalyst. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://catalist.us/wh-national/>
- ⁶⁷ Hartig, H. (2018, November 5). *In their own words: Why some people find voting difficult*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/11/05/in-their-own-words-why-some-people-find-voting-difficult/>
- ⁶⁸ Hajnal, Z., Lajevardi, N., & Nielson, L. (2017). *Voter identification laws and the suppression of minority votes*. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(2), 363-379. <https://doi.org/10.1086/688343>
- ⁶⁹ *Ibid*
- ⁷⁰ *About language minority voting rights*. The United States Department of Justice. (2023, April 5). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-language-minority-voting-rights>
- ⁷¹ Levitt, J. (2007, November 9). *The Truth About Voter Fraud*. Brennan Center for Justice. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/truth-about-voter-fraud>
- ⁷² *Response to December 28, 2020, release of misinformation by group of GOP state House members*. Pennsylvania Department of State. (2020, December 29). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.dos.pa.gov/about-us/Documents/statements/2020-12-29-Response-PA-GOP-Legislators-Misinformation.pdf> <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/001000050K4-8.htm>
- ⁷³ (10 ILCS 5/4-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 4-8). Illinois General Assembly. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/001000050K4-8.htm>
- ⁷⁴ *Access to and use of voter registration lists*. National Conference of State Legislatures. (2023, February 27). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/access-to-and-use-of-voter-registration-lists>
- ⁷⁵ *Voter rolls and voter purging*. Rock the Vote. (2022, September 22). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.rockthevote.org/explainers/voter-rolls-and-voter-purging-an-explainer/>
- ⁷⁶ Norden, L., Howard, L., & Ramakrishna, S. (2018, June 15). *Five ways states can use federal dollars to secure elections*. Brennan Center for Justice. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/five-ways-states-can-use-federal-dollars-secure-elections>
- ⁷⁷ Geller, E. (2022, November 7). *6 election security threats to watch for on Election Day*. POLITICO. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/11/07/6-election-security-threats-to-watch-for-on-election-day-00065277>
- ⁷⁸ *Ibid*
- ⁷⁹ Rabinowitz, K. (2018, February 20). *Election Security a High Priority – Until It Comes to Paying for New Voting Machines*. ProPublica. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.propublica.org/article/election-security-a-high-priority-until-it-comes-to-paying-for-new-voting-machines>
- ⁸⁰ U.S. Department of State. (2021, January 20). *U.S. security cooperation with Korea*. U.S. Department of State. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-korea/>
- ⁸¹ Press, T. A. (2022, August 22). *The U.S. and South Korea are staging their biggest military drills in years*. NPR. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.npr.org/2022/08/22/1118734871/the-u-s-and-south-korea-are-staging-their-biggest-military-drills-in-years>
- ⁸² U.S. Department of State. (2021, January 20). *U.S. security cooperation with Korea*. U.S. Department of State. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-korea/>

Endnote

- ⁸³ U.S. -South Korea Alliance: Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service. (2022, March 14). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/if/if11388>
- ⁸⁴ Korea Matters for America/America Matters for Korea. Asia Matters for America. (2023, April 24). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/uploads/publications/2023-Korea-Matters-for-America-Matters-for-Korea.pdf>
- ⁸⁵ U.S. -South Korea Alliance: Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service. (2022, March 14). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/if/if11388>
- ⁸⁶ Ibid
- ⁸⁷ Friedhoff, K. (2022, September 9). *Americans continue to back South Korea*. Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://globalaffairs.org/research/public-opinion-survey/americans-continue-back-south-korea>
- ⁸⁸ Ibid
- ⁸⁹ Ibid
- ⁹⁰ Ibid
- ⁹¹ *Agreement Between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the REPUBLIC OF KOREA*. United States Department of State. (2021). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/21-901-Korea-Defense-SMA.pdf>
- ⁹² Friedhoff, K. (2018, October 1). *The American public remains committed to defending South Korea*. Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://globalaffairs.org/research/public-opinion-survey/american-public-remains-committed-defending-south-korea>
- ⁹³ Fifield, A., & Kim, M. J. (2018, June 7). *Some Korean Americans have a personal stake in next week's summit: Finding family*. The Washington Post. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/some-korean-americans-have-a-personal-stake-in-next-weeks-summit-finding-family/2018/06/07/720f6e1a-64bb-11e8-b166-f6ea8410bced_story.html
- ⁹⁴ *H. Res. 410 in the House of Representatives*, U. S. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres/410/BILLS-116hres410eh.pdf>
- ⁹⁵ Chavez, N. (2021, July 25). *North Koreans and their families in the US have waited 70 years for a reunion. their time is running out*. CNN. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/25/us/korean-americans-separated-north-korea-families/index.html>
- ⁹⁶ *Progress in Korean Divided Family Reunion*. E-National Graph. (n.d.). Retrieved May 2, 2023, from https://www.index.go.kr/unity/potal/main/EachDtlPageDetail.do?idx_cd=1696
- ⁹⁷ Chavez, N. (2021, July 25). *North Koreans and their families in the US have waited 70 years for a reunion. their time is running out*. CNN. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/25/us/korean-american-s-separated-north-korea-families/index.html>
- ⁹⁸ *South Korea: Background and U.S. Relations*. Congressional Research Service. (2023, April 19). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10165>
- ⁹⁹ Baughman, L. & Francois, J. (2020). *Trade and American Jobs, The Impact of Trade on U.S. and State-Level Employment: 2020 Update*. (p. 23) Trade Partnership Worldwide LLC. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://s3.amazonaws.com/brt.org/Trade_and_American_Jobs_2020.pdf
- ¹⁰⁰ *Korea*. Office of the United States Trade Representative. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/japan-korea-apec/korea>
- ¹⁰¹ Ibid
- ¹⁰² *Korea Matters for America/America Matters for Korea*. Asia Matters for America. (2023, April 24). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/uploads/publications/2023-Korea-Matters-for-America-Matters-for-Korea.pdf>
- ¹⁰³ Friedhoff, K. (2020, October 19). *Americans positive on South Korea despite Trump's views on Alliance*. Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://globalaffairs.org/research/public-opinion-survey/americans-positive-south-korea-despite-trumps-views-alliance>
- ¹⁰⁴ *Korea Matters for America/America Matters for Korea*. Asia Matters for America. (2023, April 24). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/uploads/publications/2023-Korea-Matters-for-America-Matters-for-Korea.pdf>
- ¹⁰⁵ *Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2022, March 2). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/H1B_Characteristics_Congressional_Report_FY2021-3.22.pdf
- ¹⁰⁶ Ibid

Endnote

¹⁰⁷ Korea. Office of the United States Trade Representative. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/japan-korea-apec/korea>

¹⁰⁸ Ibid

109 Fuchs, E., & Saalera, S. (2018). Transformations in the Cold War System in East Asia. In T. Kasahara (Ed.), *A New Modern History of East Asia* (Vol. 7, Ser. ISBN 978-3-7370-0708-5, p. 334). essay, V&R Academic.

¹¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹¹ Baek, G. (2013, April 9). *A perspective on Korea's participation in the Vietnam War*. The Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Retrieved May 1, 2023, from <http://en.asaninst.org/contents/issue-brief-no-53-a-perspective-on-koreas-participation-in-the-vietnam-war/#:~:text=A%20recent%20survey%20of%20Korean,nuanced%20views%20of%20the%20war.&text=The%20Asan%20survey%2C%20which%20also,strong%20feelings%20toward%20the%20veterans>

¹¹² VHA directive 1601D.02. (2018). *Treatment of Allied beneficiaries*. Department of Veterans Affairs. Retrieved May 2, 2023, from https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=5967



The largest nationwide network of Korean American voters, KAGC is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to uplifting our community through active civic engagement. With various civic engagement programs throughout the year, KAGC educates the public on the key issues of the Korean American community and empowers the community members to amplify their voice. KAGC is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law. All information discussed in this brief is intended for civic education purposes only. KAGC does not endorse or oppose any political party, candidate, or campaign.

If you have any questions concerning the material discussed in this brief, please contact the KAGC office by email info@kagc.us or phone at (202) 450-4252. All rights reserved.

CIVIC EDUCATION

**VOTER REGISTRATION
& MOBILIZATION**

**GRASSROOTES COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION**

OUR COMMUNITY'S VOICE

**KOREAN AMERICAN
GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE**

1012 14th Street NW
Suite 1475
Washington, D.C. 20005

[HTTPS://KAGC.US](https://kagc.us)
INFO@KAGC.US

(202) 450-4252
(202) 817-3841 FAX