



ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

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NFALA Applauds the Supreme Court's Decision to Block the Addition of the Citizenship Question in the 2020 Census

SEATTLE, WA — On Thursday, June 27, the Supreme Court of the United States found that the Trump administration gave an inadequate and pretextual reason for adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, blocking the question for the time being and remanding the case for further proceedings. NFALA applauds this ruling and echoes the majority opinion that "the decision to reinstate a citizenship question cannot be adequately explained in terms of [the Department of Justice's] request for improved citizenship data to better enforce the [Voting Rights Act]."

Last year, NFALA submitted a comment to the Census Bureau, pursuant to the administrative rulemaking process, opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question in the 2020 Census. A fair and accurate census is important for Filipino Americans because the federal government uses census-derived data to direct at least \$800 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families. The data guide important community decisions affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investment, and more. In 2015, 7.5% Filipino Americans were living in poverty, and the unemployment rate of Filipinos Americans was 6.2%. Meanwhile, over half of Filipino Americans are foreign born and approximately 247,304 Filipinos in the United States are undocumented. Should the citizenship question appear in the census, Filipinos Americans, who may fear consequences due to their immigration status, risk being underrepresented and underserved.

"Census data is critical to ensuring the equitable distribution of public services across the country," said NFALA president Eric de los Santos. "While the Supreme Court's ruling is reason to be hopeful, we are still concerned about the possible inclusion of the question upon remand. The 2020 Census, and the data it collects, must be used in good faith to get an accurate assessment of the needs of our community."

NFALA is the national voice for the Filipino-American legal profession. It advocates for justice, civil rights, and equal opportunity for the Filipino-American community. It cultivates high standards of integrity and professionalism among its members and strives for the advancement and success of Filipino-Americans within the profession. NFALA is a family, comprised of members throughout the United States, with the

shared goal of increasing its national growth, impact, and visibility while also celebrating its members' cultural heritage.

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