

Congress soon to pass apology for Chinese Exclusion Act



This week, U.S. Representative Judy Chu and a coalition of Chinese American community groups announced a breakthrough in the House of Representatives regarding the passage of a bill expressing regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was a bill passed in 1882 that suspended Chinese immigration and prevented Chinese Americans from voting or becoming naturalized citizens. It is widely considered the only major law in U.S. history

to restrict immigration of a specific ethnic group to the United States. The law would not be repealed until the passage of the Magnuson Act during World War II.

The companion bill to Rep. Chu's resolution passed unanimously in the Senate last

October. Passage of the House resolution, expected to reach the House floor this month, would mark the U.S. government's first official acknowledgement of and regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act and the discrimination and human rights abuses perpetrated against Chinese Americans under this act. According to Rep. Chu, this would also become the fourth official apology ever expressed by the United States government.

美國華人歷史新篇章 眾議院全票通過為排華法案道歉

中新社華盛頓6月18日電 隨著眾議院18日全票表決通過，美國正式以立法形式就1882年通過的《排華法案》道歉，美國華人歷史掀開新篇章

華盛頓時間18日下午，美國眾議院就《排華法案》道歉案進行口頭表決，結果全票通過，加上去年10月參議院業已全票通過，就此美國正式以立法形式向曾經排斥歧視華人的做法道歉。

1882年通過的排華法案系美國歷史上唯一針對某一族裔的移民排斥法案，直到1943年才被廢除。該法連同其他歧視性法案禁止華人在美擁有房產、禁止華人與白人通婚、禁止華人妻子兒女移民美國、禁止華人在政府就職、禁止華人同白人在法院對簿公堂等。

2011年5月聯合其他議員向國會遞交道歉案的華裔眾議員趙美心強調，過去25年美國參眾兩院僅僅通過三份道歉案，因此18日的道歉案相當難得，可謂創造了美國華人的歷史。

一直參與推動《排華法案》道歉案的美國華人全國委員會主席薛海培表示，美國華人及亞裔社區完成了要求國會就《排華法案》道歉的歷史使命，這是美國華人期待已久的一天，也將是美國華人嶄新的一天。

“如今我們可以告慰來美先輩的英靈，他們遭受的歧視和苦難成為後代成長和進步的精神食糧，歷史和心靈的傷痛從此可以開始癒合。”薛海培說。

自2010年起，美國華人全國委員會等一眾華裔社團開始聯手推動國會為《排華法案》道歉，此後展開遞交請願書、遊說、起草道歉議案等一系列工作；2011年5月趙美心等議員遞交議案後，道歉案正式進入國會立法程序。

2011年10月，美國參議院率先以全票通過道歉案；上周趙美心宣佈，經過內部協商，民主共和兩黨達成一份聯合協議，因此道歉案獲得通過幾成定局，單等眾議院18日進行表決。

在美國國會為排華法案道歉前，美國加利福尼亞州議會和舊金山市議會2009年曾分別通過決議，就《排華法案》正式向華裔道歉。

14修正案“出生公民權”的最重要的法案。

羅省台山寧陽會館顧問黃學林、昭倫公所謝允山、岡州會館蔣郭慧珍等在發言中表示，當年的華僑們團結一致，捐助律師費最終贏得黃金德案的勝訴。華僑前輩們的不懈努力，為華裔參政和百年僑社的建設都奠定了至關重要的基礎和規範。這些都應該是華裔年青一代需要銘記和學習的。

羅省福僑會會長伍尚齊、全美中華青年聯合會會長任向東表示，華人抵美髮展近200年來，正因為有華人前輩們的奉獻和爭取，才有華裔現在的社會地位、政治地位。現今在美國政壇的重量級華裔政治人物，都是早期移民家庭的子女。華裔新生代一定要有維護族裔權益的使命感，深感任重道遠。

羅省中華會館顧問馬樹榮、羅省福僑會副會長黃鍾艷珍、徐象天、黃氏宗親會黃文創、伍胥山公所伍達斌、俊英工商會葉熾、潮境同鄉會黃于錦梅、朱沛國堂朱耀庭、以及華裔新生代社團代表左軍、余軍、龔耀娥等參加了當天的座談會。他們認為，未來華人在積極參政方面，還有更大的努力空間，首先就可以選民登記開始，華裔一定可以成為美國社會中關鍵的少數。(AACYP 洛杉磯訊)

美排華案道歉案通過 僑社長輩囑新生代繼續努力



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美國國會議員趙美心致信伊利華報

Dear Anne,
Last week, we achieved a major milestone on my resolution of regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, H. Res 683. As the first Chinese American Congresswoman, I was very proud to witness the bill pass unanimously in the House of Representatives. Now, we can celebrate the fact that this resolution passed both the Senate and House unanimously!

To watch this historic moment, click on this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVEKx9um_jY&feature=youtu.be

The resolution also got national press coverage! Here's are some clips:
L.A. Times - <http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-house-apology-chinese-immigrants-20120618,0,7467392.story>
CNN - http://inamerica.blogs.cnn.com/2012/06/19/in-rare-apology-house-regrets-exclusionary-laws-targeting-chinese/?hpt=us_bn1

It took 60 long years for the Exclusion Laws to be repealed, and the trauma of the laws left a permanent scar upon generations of Chinese Americans, splitting apart families, and disenfranchising many. Chinese Americans did not have the legal right to become naturalized citizens and had to carry papers on them at all times or be de-

ported. My own grandfather was a victim of the law.

My resolution finally acknowledges and expresses regret for these injustices towards people of Chinese origin in the United States. It recognizes that America was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal.

Although this resolution is another step forward on our path to equal rights for all people, our work is far from over. I will continue to fight against social injustices and protect the civil rights of all communities, but I need your help.

The second quarter of 2012 ends at midnight on Saturday, June 30, and we want to show a strong fundraising quarter. Can I count on your support and contribution?

To donate \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or the allowable maximum, click here: <http://www.judychu.org/donate.php>. I hope I can count on you!

With your generous support, we can make sure I can run a successful re-election campaign to Congress!

In friendship,

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

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唐永昶律师
电话: 330-752-1959
电子邮箱: jtang@bmdllc.com



徐佳佳律师
电话: 330-253-9195
电子邮箱: vjxu@bmdllc.com



BRENNAN, MANNA & DIAMOND
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

地址: 75 East Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44308
网站: www.bmdllc.com