



March 24, 2021

Once again, the Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians stands with our colleagues and the community in Atlanta, Georgia where a hate crime last week has devastated a community of people and resulted in the deaths of 8 people, 6 of whom were Asian Americans. We extend our sorrow, prayers and condolences to the families, friends and community of those whose lives were lost this week. We hold in our thoughts those who were injured and hope for quick and complete healing.

The hatred, intolerance and violence of this mass shooting targeting Asian American owned businesses and their employees demonstrates the danger and impact hate crimes have on entire communities. Sadly, we recognize that this tragedy is the worst, and yet only one, of the rising number of hate crimes against and harassment of Asian-Americans over the last year. Hate crimes are a public health issue that affect the safety of our communities and the wellbeing of our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and patients. As physicians, we must not be silent about the growing epidemic of hate and violence we have been witnessing over the last four years.

Today, in the wake of yet another mass shooting, we call on our elected leaders here in Oregon and across the country to stand with us in working to eliminate all hate crimes, and to reduce firearm related deaths.

We stand with our Asian American colleagues, patients, neighbors, and family in insisting on respect and safety for all humans regardless of race, language, country of origin, religion, or any other personal characteristics.

We pledge to continue this work and we renew our commitment to the ever more urgent task of building inclusive, tolerant, and resilient communities that respectfully welcome ALL people so all can live in peace, health, and safety.

Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians – Governor's Advisory Council

Racism and Health in the United States: A Policy Statement From the American College of Physicians; Annals of Internal Medicine; 6 October 2020; <https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-4195>

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/hate_crimes_public_health_issue_2017.pdf

<https://acphospitalist.org/archives/2020/06/anti-asian-bias-brought-out-by-pandemic.htm>