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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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RUI XU  
25TH DISTRICT

Chairman Barker and members of the committee,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of HB2113: establishing an Asian-American Pacific Islander Affairs Commission.

Nationwide, Asian-Americans are the fastest growing voting bloc and in Kansas, while they might not quite be keeping up with the Latino-Americans, they're close. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of Asians in the state rose from 2.10% to 2.90%, and from 2010 to 2020, it rose from 2.90% to 3.80%.

At the same time the numbers of Asian-Americans are increasing, an even more startling trend has emerged over the last few years: violence against Asian-Americans is becoming more prevalent. Hate crimes against Asian-Americans increased 73%<sup>1</sup> in 2020 over 2019 and 331%<sup>2</sup> in 2021 over 2020. Throughout the pandemic, rhetoric that was targeted towards China had a negative impact on Asian-Americans living here.

While these incidents seem to be concentrated largely in big cities and there is little evidence of a violent epidemic in Kansas, it is still important to have a central AAPI-focused commission in the state. We are spread out all over the state, with many pockets and communities with little say in any level of government, and we need to make sure that there's an outlet for their voices to be heard here.

HB2113 is a great first step to making sure those voices are heard and that all the various Asian-American communities in the state know that there is someone in the state looking out for their interests.

I appreciate your interest and look forward to your questions at the appropriate time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Xu', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-asian-hate-crimes-rose-73-last-year-updated-fbi-data-says-rcna3741>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-asian-hate-crimes-increased-339-percent-nationwide-last-year-repo-rcna14282>