The Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) envisions a state where all Minnesotans, regardless of background, are actively engaged and can achieve prosperity. Our mission is to harness our collective power to improve the lives of our community by connecting, learning, and acting together. We believe our democracy thrives when all communities are visible. With our individual leaders and organizations, we work in multicultural and multiracial formations in order to build alliances with each other and to practice building solidarity towards achieving social justice and equity.

To advance our community’s priorities in Economics, Education, and Safe and Welcoming Communities we carry out activities that help us develop collective action to; influence policy decisions that impact Asian Americans, engage and mobilize the community to speak for themselves, illuminate research on practices, opportunities, and stories of those who are most impacted by education and economic inequities, and work to increase investments to the community.

**Economics Policy**

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<th>Nonprofit Infrastructure Program</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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**Grow the Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program:** Minnesota is home to approximately 7,000 registered nonprofits, with small organizations making up over 70%. The nonprofit sector employs 11.5% of the state's workforce. Also, about 85% of the state's nonprofits are engaged in community services that provide support for low-income families. When organizations from communities of color and Indigenous communities are strengthened they will help make Minnesota better.

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**Education: K-12 Policy**

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CAAL supports House File 704 which:
- Requires every school district to incorporate ethnic studies into their social studies curriculum, and that one or more Ethnic Studies courses must include the following topics:
Safe & Welcoming Communities

**Immigrant Protection & Public Safety**

**Description**

**Invest in the Protection of Immigrants and Refugees**

Black, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous Communities face disproportionate rates of criminalization and violence. We support policies that create a more just process that prevents of violence and family separation for all Asian Minnesotans and other BIPOC communities.

**State Policies**

- CAAL supports the **Post-Conviction Relief (PCR) HF833/ SF1514** legislation to expand access to justice for those facing harsh immigration consequences. With this bill, someone with an old conviction who is facing deportation would have the opportunity to go to court, present the facts of their case and request that a judge grant relief. If granted, the individual would get relief from any ongoing consequences of the conviction, including deportation.

- CAAL supports the **Hate Crimes HF1691** legislation that further defines a crime of hate, closing loopholes that misclassify hateful incidents. In addition, provide support to victims of hate crimes and allow them to report incidents to non-law enforcement entities, like community organizations and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

**Federal Policies**

Deportations of Southeast Asian Americans have risen steadily since the passage of 1996 immigration laws. Since 1998, over 17,000 Southeast Asian Americans have been given a final order of removal. It is important to note that nearly 80% of Southeast Asians with a final order of removal are tied to a conviction. **The New Way Forward Act HR536** addresses some of the harmful aspects of the 1996 laws by repealing the immigration enforcement legal system that is hurting our communities. We urge the Biden Administration to lift some critical items in his **Immigration Bill**.

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