

April 10, 2009

Betty Brown
Representative, District 4
Texas House of Representatives
108 S. Pinkerton, Suite 105
Athens, TX 75751

Dear Ms. Brown:

I'm writing to express my concern with your comments made on April 7, 2009 during House testimony regarding Asian names and voter identification. I find such statements from a Representative of a respected State highly offensive. Your comments were grossly unfair, extremely damaging, and, to be blunt, just plain wrong in every conceivable sense.

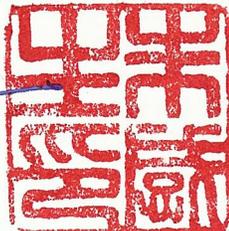
In San José, a City of nearly 1 million residents in the heart of Silicon Valley, Asian-Americans are hard working citizens across all social and economic levels. Most are law abiding citizens who are living to achieve their American dream as Americans. In a land of immigrants where all are embraced and accepted for their cultural heritage, it is almost a crime to ask proud and hardworking Americans to be stripped of their namesake. One would never ask other ethnic communities to change their names. Doing so would also shred identities and values on which this diverse country is built on.

Your comments are an unfortunate blemish in an America that accepts all races, all genders, and all values. Slave owners of early American history made it a crime for Black slaves to keep their birth given name, an act of history that has been denounced. I'm calling upon you to not repeat history and retract these highly insensitive and un-American comments and issue an apology for the same comments that have offended the American people. I look forward to hearing your response.

With appreciation,



KANSEN CHU
Councilmember
City of San José



CC: Representative Joe Straus, Texas House Speaker
George Wu, Director of OCA