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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 13, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Cory Booker
Chairman
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

Dear Chairman Durbin and Chairman Booker:

We write today to request a hearing of the full Committee or the Crime Subcommittee related to the rise in violent crime across the country, in particular the surge in violent crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

Every one of us is horrified to see incidents in which our fellow Americans are attacked because of their race or ethnicity. We understand that Attorney General Garland is conducting a 30-day review of violence against AAPI Americans, which we hope will improve the federal government's capacity to track and identify hate crimes, review civil enforcement authorities, and assess whether additional resources are needed to support law enforcement's response to this violence. This review is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks.

Congress's attention to the findings of this review, including whether there is a need for additional resources or to adjust relevant legal authorities, will be necessary. We request a hearing on this issue at the earliest possible opportunity after that review is completed.

We are concerned to see that such an important issue has not already received Committee or Subcommittee attention. Instead, S. 937, the "COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act," has been moved to the Senate floor with little commentary, factfinding, or Committee consideration. We believe the Senate should have the benefit of hearing from the Department of Justice before blindly acting on this issue. As we know that each of you believes very strongly in the importance of

Committee process, we hope you will support this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cotton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Cotton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice
and Counterterrorism