



## **The Chicago Chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum Supports Efforts Countering Anti-Choice Billboards**

April 6, 2011

On March 29th, anti-choice billboard ads were put up on Chicago's South Side, featuring an image of President Obama with the text "Every 21 minutes, our next possible leader is aborted." The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) condemns these ads which are misleading and dangerous.

The first of 30 planned Chicago billboard installations, these ads are backed by a national anti-choice campaign that also put up a similar billboard ad in SoHo, New York. The SoHo billboard had an image of a young black girl with the text "The most dangerous place for an African American woman is in the womb." The SoHo ad was taken down shortly after installation due to community response over it, and we believe that by uniting our efforts in Chicago, we can also take down these offensive and divisive ads.

The ads and the race and sex selection abortion bans are designed to increase scrutiny on the motives and decisions of women of color who seek abortion care. Rather than limit access to safe reproductive health care, the focus should be on changing the social norms and culture that perpetuate systemic racism and son preference, while fighting for policies that promote gender and racial equity. Additionally, the groups organizing the billboards are the same ones who oppose safety net programs and health care reform that would directly benefit women and communities of color. Instead of posting sensationalist billboards or creating legislation that questions a woman's motive for obtaining an abortion, proactive, long term policy solutions to this issue must include analysis of gender equality and all its ramifications—including pay equity, freedom from violence, fair and humane immigration policies, and women's ability to control their bodies and their futures.

We support the work of coalition partners and community allies like [Black Women for Reproductive Justice](#) (BWRJ) and will keep you updated on how we as a community can work collectively to fight these ads.

More information on the Chicago ads can be found at Feministing [here](#), at HuffPost [here](#), and some background information [here](#).

**[National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum \(NAPAWF\)-Chicago Chapter](#)**

**Contact: [ChicagoChapter@napawf.org](mailto:ChicagoChapter@napawf.org)**

Please share the below information on an upcoming community engagement event:

## **Saturday, April 23 – “Clean the Lot and Resource Fair”**

9am-12pm – Billboard Lot Clean-Up

12pm-4pm – Community Resource Fair

**Location:** Empty lot next to billboards at 5812 S. State Street.

Recognizing the dire resource needs of the community where the billboard ads were placed, coalition partners are teaming up to assist the affected community in a very real, tangible way. On Saturday, April 23, community members are invited to come together to help clean up the lot next to the billboards, followed by a community resource fair focused on services available to women and girls.

Volunteers are needed, both to clean the lot, and to share information about their organization/agency. Please contact [gaylon@chicagoabortionfund.com](mailto:gaylon@chicagoabortionfund.com) if you plan to send a representative.

Let's show that we are **COMMITTED** to our **COMMUNITY**!