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# California State Senate



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**SENATOR**  
**S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN**  
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2006

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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## **COALITION LAUNCHES AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE THE CHANGING FACE OF RACE AND DIVERSITY IN CALIFORNIA**

### **WHAT:**

A broad coalition comprised of Multiracial, Cultural, Religious and Professional Organizations will hold a press conference to discuss their support of SB 1615, authored by State Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto).

SB 1615, The Ethnic Heritage Respect and Recognition Act, addresses the changing face of race and diversity in the nation by making California the first state to give multiracial individuals the right to identify with "one or more" racial or ethnic backgrounds on forms that ask for this information. This large and rapidly growing demographic has long been ignored despite the unique set of challenges that multiracial people face. The measure would for the first time allow California agencies to understand and address these needs by ensuring that information about multiracial Californians is collected and publicly reported.

### **WHEN:**

Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 12:30 PM

### **WHERE:**

State Capitol, Room 1190 – Governor's Press Room

### **HOST:**

Alfredo Padilla, Project Manager, MAVIN Foundation

**SPEAKERS:**

State Senator Joe Simitian

Attorney General Bill Lockyer

JilChristina Vest, Board Member, Interracial/Intercultural Pride

Curtiss Takada Rooks, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies, San Jose State University

Karen Kurasaki, Ph.D., President, Japanese American Citizens League – Florin Chapter

Other attendees will include: Dr. Dorothy Enomoto, Deputy Director California Dept. of Corrections, Retired; Jerry Enomoto, US Marshall, Retired; Linda Ng, President, Sacramento Organization of Chinese Americans; Tarah Fleming, Program Manager and Diversity Specialist, Multiethnic Education Program; Megan Emiko Scott, Bay Area Chapter Leader, Swirl, Inc; Adriane E. Gamble, Bay Area Chapter Leader, Swirl, Inc; Eric Wong, Project Coordinator, Level Playing Field Institute; Jungmiwha Bullock, President, Association of MultiEthnic Americans

**HOW:**

Media can also listen in by phone:

Dial-In Telephone Number: (877) 322-9648

Participant access code: 398223

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