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NATIONAL CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE IN AMERICA

6433 Northanna Drive • Springfield, VA 22150 Phone/Fax (703) 719-5764 • Fax (781) 207-7960 www.NCVAonline.org • info@ncvaonline.org Founded 1986

August 21, 2002

The Honorable Herb Wesson Speaker of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 219 Sacramento, CA 95814 Fax 916-319-2147

RE: Support of HR 75

To the Honorable Speaker of the Assembly,

We would like to express our support for HR 75. During the most recently completed redistricting process for the State of California, our organization was a member of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR). We participated in the proceedings during the redistricting process and the post-meetings with the members of the Legislature representing the South Bay Area. We urge you to support House Resolution 75 and Assembly Constitutional Amendment 21.

We strongly advocate civic participation. We believe that our right to participate in the governing process in the State of California cannot be abridged or impeded. Our participation in the electoral process is important to us as tax paying citizens who revel in the ideals of freedom and democracy. The Vietnamese American community is no longer a constituency that remains quiet and uninvolved. We participated in the process by submitting testimony. In the final Redistricting Plan, our voices were unheard by a majority when the Legislature divided the Berryessa and Evergreen communities of San José into four and two Assembly districts, respectively. We remain firm in our desire to have our voices heard and our collective votes counted as a community and not minimized by being scattered across Assembly districts. As an organization and community, we urge you to support HR 75.

Sincerely,

Hung Quoc Nguyen

Hung Quoc Nguyen President

Founded in 1986, the National Congress of Vietnamese in America (NCVA) considers its mission to advance the cause of Vietnamese Americans in a plural but united America - *e pluribus unum* – by participating actively and fully as civic minded citizens engaged in the areas of education, culture and civil liberties.