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NC Asian Americans Endorse Wiley Nickel for Congressional District 13, Grafstein and Meyer for State Senate

NCAAT in Action is proud to endorse candidates who understand and are responsive to unique issues facing Asian Americans in North Carolina.

Raleigh — NCAAT in Action, North Carolina's only pan-Asian political organization, announced their endorsement today of **Wiley Nickel**, candidate for U.S. House, 13th Congressional District; **Lisa Grafstein** for State Senate, District 13; and **Graig Meyer** for State Senate, District 23, for North Carolina's primary election on May 17. These candidates reflect the values of the organization and its members, values that include diversity, equity, quality education and an inclusive economy.

The unprecedented growth in North Carolina's Asian American population over the past decade — 65% since the 2010 Census — has resulted in a powerful new voting bloc in the state. It is critical not only for Asian Americans to turn out for the primary election, but also to use their voting power to elect leaders who will fight to make North Carolina more equitable, prosperous, and inclusive for all of its residents. With that in mind, NCAAT in Action is continuing to roll out its slate of primary endorsements after endorsing Cheri Beasley and Nida Allam last week.

"Nickel, Grafstein, and Meyer all understand the unique issues that impact Asian Americans and the importance of representing and listening to our diverse communities," said **NCAAT in Action Executive Director Chavi Khanna Koneru**. "Through their past work, these candidates have shown dedication and respect for our communities and the issues that are important to us."

Nickel has dedicated time during his tenure in the State Senate building relationships with the Nepali and Tamil communities and supporting a bench of local elected leaders from the Chinese, Indian, and Filipino communities. Such a responsive voice is particularly important in the contested 13th Congressional District, which has been redrawn multiple times during redistricting and encompasses the southern part of Wake County, home to many Asian Americans in North Carolina.

"I'm so honored to have the endorsement of NCAAT in Action in this race for Congress," said **Wiley Nickel, candidate for U.S. House**. "The Asian American community is a leading partner in this fight to deliver high quality public education, equality, and an economy that works for everyone. I'm looking forward to making continued progress together in Washington."

Grafstein and Meyer also have a level of engagement with local Asian American communities that exhibit understanding of issues Asian Americans face. As a civil rights lawyer, Grafstein represented



South Asian clients facing employment discrimination. Meyer, meanwhile, worked in public schools for over a decade and played a central role in helping Karen refugees from Burma find a home in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system.

To have earned an endorsement from NCAAT in Action means that the candidate has effectively demonstrated their commitment to furthering the best interests of Asian Americans and all communities of color in North Carolina as an elected representative.

NCAAT in Action works statewide to build political power in Asian American communities and to advocate for the needs of Asian Americans alongside other communities of color. To learn more about NCAAT in Action's endorsements, visit <https://ncaatinaction.org/endorsements>.

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NCAAT in Action is committed to supporting equity and justice for all by building political power among Asian Americans and allies in North Carolina through voter education, progressive advocacy, and leadership development.