

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.
27TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
AND THE INTERNET

**COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS**
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ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND CAPITAL ACCESS
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CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Board Chair Solis, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor Kuehl, Supervisor Knabe, and Supervisor Antonovich,

On behalf of the more than 600 residents of Keiro Senior Healthcare (Keiro), we urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution asserting that the welfare and safety of the residents of Keiro is in the public interest, and that the resources of Los Angeles County will be made available to ensure their continued receipt of high-quality, multi-lingual services.

Keiro has served the greater Los Angeles area for over 50 years, and was established to provide broader care and nursing home services for the Japanese American community. It currently has four facilities serving over 600 residents throughout Los Angeles County.

The residents of Keiro tell us that the sale of Keiro to Pacifica Companies has not been transparent to them and to other stakeholders. We understand that Keiro waived the option to hold a public hearing, and so the final details of the sale agreement were not made available until after the sale period had ended. We believe these actions denied residents, donors, and family members the opportunity to provide feedback on the impact of the sale.

Furthermore, details surrounding the sale of Keiro indicate that the option of long-term care for the Japanese American community is in jeopardy. Specifically, the terms of the sale offer no price protections for current residents after the first year and the residents have no guarantee that they will be able to continue living in their homes outside of a five year period.

These concerns have been reaffirmed by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing Services (DHFES), who requested a delay of the sale in court in order to properly investigate whether the livelihoods and integrity of the Japanese American community were at risk of being damaged by the sale to Pacifica. While that motion was denied, we urge you to consider DHFES' interest in this case as a sign of the civil rights violations that may have occurred through the sale of Keiro.

Keiro is a unique facility because its' residents are primarily elderly Japanese- Americans, many of whom lost everything that they had when they were interned in the desolate camps of World War II. They were interned due to accusations of espionage. However, 70 years later, not a single case of espionage was proven. Considering the travesties of justice from the past, we believe that these senior citizens are the most deserving of the greatest consideration that our system can offer, and you are in a unique position to provide it.


We therefore urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution asserting that Keiro Senior Healthcare's continued operation is in the public interest. Further, we request that the Board of Supervisors commit that the county will use its resources to monitor and enforce the conditions of the sale, as well as investigate any wrongdoing during the course of the sale. It is critical that the integrity of Keiro's multilingual, high quality services are preserved, and we request that the Board of Supervisors resolve to do so.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

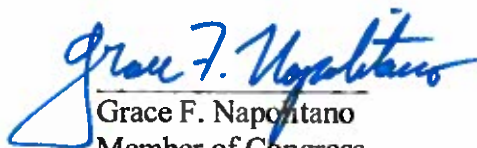
Sincerely,



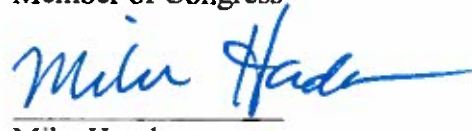
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



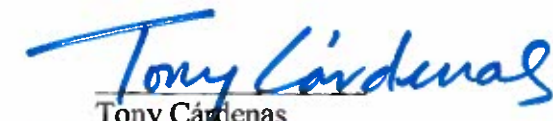
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



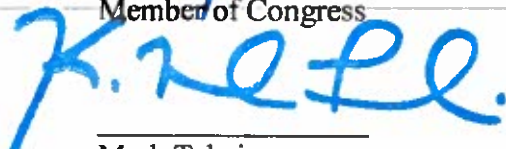
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