OCA R – 1702: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PROTECTION OF LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS

WHEREAS OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates will continue to be an advocate for all Asian American and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS OCA resolved to oppose discriminatory practices against the LGBTQ+ community in 1994; and

WHEREAS OCA resolved in 2007 to support legal protection of those in same-sex marriages; and

WHEREAS Discrimination continues to impact thousands of LGBTQ+ members of the AAPI community; and

WHEREAS There is an estimated 324,600 LGBTQ+ AAPI adults living in the United States1; and

WHEREAS An estimated 25% of LGBTQ+ AAPIs experience psychological distress – a rate that is nearly four times higher than their non-LGBTQ+ identifying AAPI counterparts2; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ+ individuals experience unemployment at twice the U.S. national rate3; and

WHEREAS Over half of AAPI LGBTQ+ students report feeling unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation4; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA will acknowledge the diverse sexual orientation and gender-identities within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OCA will oppose measures that single out or alienate individuals based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OCA will not take or endorse any action or persons, which would harm, compromise, disrupt, or destroy the livelihood of LGBTQ+ individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OCA will support measures that explicitly protect the rights of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

4 https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/Shared%20Differences.pdf