

A Billboard Is up in WA Speaker Laurie Jinkins' District to Protest Her Decision To Kill Chinese American History Month

WA Speaker of the House, Laurie Jinkins, Killed Chinese American History Month. The Chinese American Community Put up a Billboard to Protest Her Decision.

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES, May 18, 2022

/EINPresswire.com/ -- A billboard was put up in House Speaker Laurie Jinkins' district last Friday. The message on the billboard says, "1885 Chinese expelled from Tacoma. 2022 Speaker Laurie Jinkins killed Chinese American History Month. Learn from history." This is the continuation of the Chinese American community's protest against Speaker Jinkins' decision to kill [ESB 5264, the Americans of Chinese descent history month bill](#).



A Billboard in Tacoma, WA Urges Speaker Laurie Jinkins To Learn From the City's Violent Past Against Chinese Americans.

If passed, ESB 5264 would declare January as Americans of Chinese descent history month and encourage (not mandate) public schools to commemorate Americans of Chinese descent's lives, history, achievements, and contributions.

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Love to hear your take on the 'politics' of not passing this bill (i.e. ESB 5264, the Americans of Chinese descent history month bill).”

Rep. My-Linh Thai

Last year, Senator Wagoner sponsored SB 5264. The bill has zero fiscal impact, and was passed out of committee unanimously. Yet, Senate Democrat Leadership sat on it and let the bill die twice. The Chinese American community strongly condemned Senate Democrat Leadership's

missing in action.

This year, Senate quickly passed ESB 5264 by 48 to 0 in January. This would allow this bill enough time to navigate through the House. After the bill finally reached House floor calendar on

February 26, House Democrat Leadership intentionally blocked this bill, having plenty of time and all the power to bring this bill out for an all member vote.

The Chinese American community was outraged by the House Democrat Leadership's intentional expulsion of the Americans of Chinese descent history month bill from WA State Law. They sent out [a press release on March 7th](#) and called out the House Democrat Leadership for discriminating against and humiliating the Chinese American community.

In her [interview with The Spokesman-Review in April](#), House Speaker Jinkins told the reporter that "majority Democrats had questions about assigning months to 'sub-ethnic' groups." Just 3 years ago, in 2019, ALL House Democrats, Laurie Jinkins included, voted to pass SB 5864 and designate October as Filipino American History Month. House Democrats clearly had no "questions" about passing SB 5864 and designating a month for the Filipino "sub-ethnic" group, yet they now claim to have "questions" about assigning a month for Chinese Americans, the largest Asian ethnic group in Washington.

In a March 3rd text message exchange with Speaker Jinkins, Rep. My-Linh Thai asked, "Love to hear your take on the 'politics' of not passing this bill (i.e. ESB 5264, the Americans of Chinese descent history month bill)." On March 4th, less than an hour after ESB 5264 missed cutoff and died, Rep. Cindy Ryu celebrated their victory with her legislative assistant and said in an email, "With the passage of this bill, they (i.e. the community organizations behind ESB 5264) would have been further emboldened." Rep. Ryu later dismissed the community organizations in another email exchange with her legislative assistant on March 9th, and said, "It's a community of 200-300 people max. They've been taking up too much of certain legislators (seems females only so far) like Sen. Kuderer and Rep. Walen."

The power to pass ESB 5264 was firmly in the hands of House Speaker Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma. As Speaker of the House, she had the ultimate authority to determine if this bill received a vote, but she chose not to. Given Chinese Americans' long history in this state, their large contributions, and their painful discriminated past, Washington State is long overdue for a Chinese American History Month.

The Chinese American community is holding Speaker Jinkins accountable. In 1885, Chinese immigrants were forcefully expelled from Tacoma. They lost their homes and possessions, and some even lost their lives along this terrible journey. The city later built Chinese Reconciliation Park to commemorate this dark history. Rep. Jinkins apparently did not learn from her city's dark past. This billboard's message is clear: "Those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it. (by George Santayana)"

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