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SAALT Joins Allies and Congressional Members to Call for End to Discrimination Against LGBT Binational Families

Washington DC- South Asian Americans Leading Together, a national non-partisan non-profit organization whose mission is to elevate the voices and perspectives of South Asians to build a more just and inclusive society in the United States, joined allies and members of Congress today to support the inclusion of *Uniting American Families Act* (UAFA) as part of immigration reform efforts. This vital legislation offers relief to the thousands of same-sex binational families who are currently unable to sponsor permanent partners abroad through the current family immigration system and are forced to choose between their country and their loved ones.

As a predominantly foreign-born community, South Asians have a crucial stake in the ongoing dialogue about how to fix the broken immigration system. Too many South Asians face deplorable conditions from exploitative work conditions to fear of ongoing raids to long wait times for family-based visas. For lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community members who are U.S. citizens or green card holders, it is impossible for them to sponsor their permanent partner abroad in the same way that heterosexual couples can. The *Uniting American Families Act*, sponsored by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY) and Senator Leahy (VT), will end such discrimination. The *Reuniting Families Act*, sponsored by Congressman Mike Honda (CA), promotes the unity of all immigrant families, including LGBT binational couples.

SAALT commends members of Congress who stand here today in support such inclusive legislation and urges Congress to ensure that just and humane immigration reform includes provisions for LGBT families.

To learn more about South Asian priorities in immigration reform, visit: <http://bit.ly/90mMHW>.