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**AAHOA Statement on Bullying of Indian Student, Call for  
Action by Coppell ISD**

COPPELL, Tx., May 18 – AAHOA has recently been made aware of a bullying incident at a Texas middle school last week. Another student, a bystander, caught the whole incident on camera, and that video has since gone viral. While the video is hard to watch, it shows one student assaulting and choking an Indian American student in what appears to be the school cafeteria at Coppell Middle School.

News outlets have reported that the victim is Shaan Pritmani. It has also been reported that he received a three-day in-school suspension as punishment, while the bully only received a one-day suspension.

AAHOA Chairman Neal Patel and President and CEO Laura Lee Blake issued the following statement regarding this incident:

“As an organization based on anti-discrimination, anti-bullying, and anti-racist principles, AAHOA denounces this behavior and calls on Coppell ISD and Coppell PD to do something about this situation.

We also want to bring attention to the petition that Shaan’s mother started to bring awareness to assaults in schools, better handle these types of incidents, and better protect the victims of these assaults. It has already garnered more than 306,000 signatures.

We will not condone this type of aggression, and encourage you to voice your concerns, and support the efforts to identify and stop such discrimination for the betterment of all of the communities in which we live and work.”

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**About AAHOA**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the nation, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.*