



## **Statement on Supreme Court Decision on using Race as a factor in Admissions June 29, 2023**

Today's ruling from the Supreme Court that colleges and universities must stop considering race as a factor in the admissions process undercuts more than forty years of precedent allowing higher education institutions to promote diversity, and upended the Court's prior rulings that found that a holistic race-conscious admissions policy is constitutional when necessary to give students the educational benefits of diversity.

This is, yet, another blow to justice as part of the growing movement in education to pause, or even dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. This movement includes the recent decision by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to remove the terms "diversity, equity and inclusion" from rules that guide Georgia universities with teacher education programs.

It's nothing new and not by happenstance, but the result of decades of positioning and planning by certain groups and individuals to maintain privilege and power when it comes to race.

This decision eliminates one of the most established and effective tools we have to fight discrimination and promote equity, and it should be a wake-up call to all people. We must stay alert and redouble our efforts to expose the painful reality of racism in all forms and disrupt the systems that perpetuate it. Refusing to acknowledge or address race does not make racism go away.

An equitable future where prosperity can be shared by all means that we understand, appreciate and celebrate diversity...in our communities, in the workplace, and in education. As a country, it's important that we all benefit from the unique perspectives diversity provides. This decision is a gut punch to the contrary.