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Reforming Affirmative Action...

From Preferences to Preparation.

When the Supreme Court of the United States ruled, in 2003, that the use of race was permissible for the purpose of achieving "diversity," that decision concluded with the aspiration, expressed by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, that "race preferences" would no longer be necessary in 25 years. Writing for the Court she said: "Enshrining a permanent justification for racial preferences would offend [the] fundamental equal protection principle. We see no reason to exempt race-conscious admissions programs from the requirement that all governmental use of race must have a logical end point."

Five years later the clock is ticking – and most institutions of higher education are doing very little to prepare for the inevitable end of race preferences.

Our problem – our national tragedy – is that low-income black and Latino youngsters fall behind from day one in public schools, and they are dropping out of high school at very high rates – and this reflects major problems. Admission preferences based on race cannot overcome this unfortunate fact.

RACE PREFERENCES:

- Obscure the real problem, which is the **INADEQUATE PREPARATION** of minority applicants.
- Compound the problem by admitting students who are **MARGINALLY QUALIFIED**, then perform weakly, and thus reinforce the stereotype of minority inferiority.
- Create resentment and ultimately engender **RACIAL HOSTILITY**.
- Benefit mainly those who come from middle or upper class backgrounds and do nothing to help those who do not come from the **PREFERRED RACIAL GROUPS**, but are hampered by socio-economic disadvantages.
- Are plainly unjust and a violation of the spirit – if not also the letter – of the U.S. Constitution, which commands that "no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the **EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS**."

Preferences based on race or national origin are counterproductive, unfair, and soon to be eliminated. The **American Civil Rights Institute** (ACRI) is leading the charge to find real solutions that move from preferences to individual preparation.

PLEASE JOIN US. To find out more visit us at www.acri.org.

REAL SOLUTIONS. Brought to you by the American Civil Rights Institute an organization aimed at educating the public on the harms of racial and gender preferences and by Super Tuesday for Equal Rights – a project aimed at educating the people of Colorado and Nebraska about the problems associated with race preferences in preparation for their vote on November 4, 2008.