

Statement in response to “Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College”

Yesterday, the Supreme Court upended decades of precedent that enabled America’s colleges and universities to build vibrant diverse environments where students are prepared to lead and learn from one another. Although the Court’s decision threatens to move the country backwards, this does not mean there is nothing we can do to continue moving forward.

As our nation’s colleges and universities consider their admissions processes in the wake of the Court’s decision, they can use this opportunity to expand access to educational opportunity for all. Our nation is stronger when our colleges and universities reflect the vast and rich diversity of our people. But while talent, creativity, and hard work are everywhere across this country, equal opportunity is not.

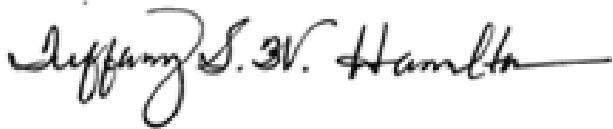
Asking colleges and universities to consider the impacts of racial disparities on an applicant’s life can provide the diversity we need in education. Specifically, colleges and universities, when selecting among qualified applicants, should give serious consideration to the adversities students have overcome, including:

- the financial means of a student or their family;
- where a student grew up and went to high school; and
- personal experiences of hardship or discrimination, including racial discrimination, that a student may have faced.

In doing so, colleges and universities can fully value aspiring students who demonstrate resilience and determination in the face of deep challenges.

We also need to be aware of other advantages such as legacy admissions and donor preferential admissions which still exist and continue to support the unearned privileges of many. Pushing for our educational institutions to consider making those slots more competitive and ensuring these legacy students and children of donors also have what it takes to be a part of a diverse and inclusive educational setting is also important.

We continue to support our community by creating and embracing diverse spaces in corporations, schools, organizations and communities. We believe that affirmative action makes all spaces better by bringing in different experiences and backgrounds to the classroom and eventually our workforce. We serve many students of color, and we will continue our efforts to enrich them with leadership development through college and career exploration. Our youth may have questions regarding this Supreme Court decision, and we stand ready to support them in the path they choose in becoming their best self. We ask our leaders to ensure we continue to pursue these values that make our communities better and safer places for all to live, work, learn and contribute.



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