

FRIENDS OF LOWELL FOUNDATION APPLAUDS U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISIONS ON RACIAL PREFERENCES

The Friends of Lowell Foundation applauds Thursday's United States Supreme Court majority ruling in favor of Students for Fair Admissions against Harvard University (20-1199) and the University of North Carolina (21-707). The Supreme Court's decision upholds the 14th Amendment rights of all, including the generations of Asian American college applicants who have been discriminated against by admissions programs in the name of skin-deep diversity.

This ruling, which declares the admissions programs at Harvard and UNC unlawful, prohibits the use of racial preferences that do not meet Constitutional strict scrutiny standards. Those programs resulted in blatant and egregious long-standing discrimination against Asian Americans.

With the decision, the Supreme Court has ended our country's long and failed experiment with racial quotas and government-sanctioned racial discrimination. In the process, it has restored a measure of objectivity and fairness to college admissions.

It is critical to understand, despite misrepresentations to the contrary, that this ruling does not end affirmative action. Affirmative action that helps presently and historically excluded and disadvantaged individuals and communities access opportunity by considering their qualities holistically, including race as it shapes an individual's character, continues to be completely legal. The FOLF wholeheartedly endorses true affirmative action.

Unfortunately, the pervasive discrimination against Asian Americans is and has been seen not only in college admissions, but is still systemically and pervasively practiced in the San Francisco Unified School District. For instance, the recent convening of the SFUSD High School Task Force is one of a number of examples of this disturbing trend.

We continue to hear the incessant call of "too many" Chinese or Asian applicants at Lowell High School. The FOLF utterly rejects the claims that any individual is not diverse, less desirable, or not as welcome as any other because of race, ethnicity, skin color, or national origin. The continued assault on high schools with merit-based admissions, such as Lowell and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia, are red-flag warnings to our nation that discrimination against Asian Americans in education continues.

Despite the progress represented by the recent Supreme Court rulings, the effort to end discrimination against Asian Americans in education is far from over. The FOLF will continue to fight for high-quality education for all students and will strive to preserve and protect academic merit-based admissions at San Francisco's Lowell High School and across the nation.