



March 31, 2005

California State Assembly  
Committee on Higher Education  
1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
Phone: (916) 319-2044  
Fax: (916) 319-2144

**Re: Assembly Bill 1452 (Nunez)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing in support of Assembly Bill 1452. The California Coalition for Civil Rights supports AB 1452 because it gives California institutions of higher education additional tools to achieve diversity. The bill authorizes the University of California and the California State University to consider culture, race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, geographic origin, and household income, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions, so long as no preference is given.

It is widely accepted that diversity in the classroom improves education for all students. In 2003, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the consideration of race and national origin by an educational institution seeking to have a diverse student body does not constitute discrimination. In *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the Supreme Court held that the University of Michigan Law School, which considered race in addition to several other factors, did not violate the equal protection clause. The Court also ruled that diversity was a legitimate educational goal.

In California, the University of California and the California State University must seek to enroll a student body that meets high academic standards and reflects the cultural, racial, geographic, economic, and social diversity of California. Such a student body will improve education for California and result in a more productive, independent, and dynamic workforce.

AB 1452 is consistent with California law including Article 1, Section 31 of the California Constitution, which bans the granting of a preference to any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. AB 1452 does not violate Proposition 209, as it explicitly makes clear that it will not allow a preference for any group or individual.

Rather, the bill allows colleges and universities to consider culture, race, ethnicity, national origin, geography, and income in conjunction with many other factors in admissions decisions. Higher education institutions currently have the flexibility to consider an applicant's talent, athletic ability, and leadership potential among other qualities in admitting a well-rounded class.

Cc: Hon. Fabian Nunez, Speaker of the Assembly

AB 1452 upholds California's long-standing commitment to provide its students with an opportunity at a quality higher education.

We strongly urge you to sign AB 1452.

Respectfully,



Michael Harris  
Co-Chair  
California Coalition for Civil Rights

American Civil Liberties Union  
(Northern California and Southern  
California Chapters)  
Americans for Democratic Action  
(South California Chapter)  
American Jewish Congress  
AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
Anti-Defamation League  
Asian Law Caucus  
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom  
California Abortion and  
Reproductive Rights Action League  
Californians for Justice  
California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative  
California Women's Agenda  
Center for Third World Organizing  
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice  
Centro Legal De La Raza  
Charles Houston Bar Association  
Child Care Law Center  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Coalition for Economic Equity  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
(Northern California Chapter)  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Community United Against Violence  
Disability Rights Education &  
Defense Fund  
Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence  
Employment Law Center of The Legal  
Aid Society of San Francisco  
Equal Justice Society  
Equal Rights Advocates

Filipinos for Affirmative Action  
Housing Rights, Inc.  
Instituto Laboral De La Raza  
Intergroup Clearinghouse  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Justice Matters Institute  
La Familia Counseling Service  
La Raza Centro Legal  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
of the San Francisco Bay Area  
Lawyers For One America  
Legal Services for Prisoners with  
Children  
Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute  
Mexican-American Legal Defense  
and Educational Fund  
Multicultural Education Training  
and Advocacy, Inc.  
NAACP  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Youth Law  
National Lawyers Guild  
(San Francisco Bay Area Chapter)  
Online Policy Group  
People For The American Way  
Public Advocates, Inc.  
Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom  
UC Davis School of Law La Raza Law  
Students Association  
UC Davis School of Law Black Law  
Students Association  
Youth Force Coalition

Cc: Hon. Fabian Nunez, Speaker of the Assembly