

Organization for Justice and Equality  
National Congress for Racial Equality  
Chinese American Institute for Empowerment  
Asian American Chamber of Commerce  
International Faith Based Coalition  
Greater San Gabriel Valley Safe Community Foundation  
Eagle Forum – California  
Take Back America  
California for Liberty  
Traditional Values for Next Generation  
Vietnamese Americans for Justice  
Association of Filipino Americans  
Better Milpitas

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For immediate release

### **Strong Opposition against Prop 16 which is discriminatory and barbaric**

Even though our efforts in fighting against ACA5 were not successful, we have continued to fight against Prop 16 which is the end result of ACA5. If approved, it will give rise to the use of race, national origin, and gender as evaluation basis in the public sector of California for college admission, job application, and contract approval. It will regressively cause serious race discrimination and sex discrimination to the detriment of our state. It is imperative that we voice strong opposition and vote No on Prop 16, as well as urging everybody to reject this calamitous and discriminatory proposition!

“Everybody should be judged objectively based on merits including accomplishments, talents, dedication, and integrity, but not on immutable traits such as color of the skin, ethnicity/national origin, and gender. Otherwise it is discrimination!” African American Bishop Ron Allen, President of National Congress for Racial Equality, stated. “Do not be misled by extremists who distract us from accentuating on the real issues of inequality and the real problems in our society for their own political agenda. The problems of drugs and crime are the most detrimental ones and affecting minority communities the most. We must use every effort to fight against drugs and crime and not be misled.”

According to African American Economist Glenn Loury, equality does not equal to patronization. He stated, "Don't inflict on us the consequences of a soft bigotry of low expectations. Don't presume that we're not capable of objectively expressing excellence in the same way as any other people are expressing excellence." During a speech at Harvard in 2019, he said, "Affirmative action is not about equality. It is about covering problems! ..... I'm not talking about headcount, but about equality of dignity, respect, standing, accomplishment, achievement, and honor. People have to earn these things."

Recently, California Institute of Public Policy unveiled a survey reflecting that 47% of the respondents reject Prop 16 while only 31% support and with 22% undecided. Despite the

numerous misleading statements by the proponents of Prop 16, this manifests that Californians do know the truth and our combined efforts bear fruit.

This result is in line with the one from Pew survey in March 2019 which found that the majority of Americans, 73% of the over 6,600 respondents, believe that universities/colleges should reject the usage of race or ethnicity in admission decisions. This rejection percentage is convincingly high across the board: Hispanics Americans-65%, African Americans-62%, Caucasian Americans-78%, and 63%-Democrats. Another study result by Marquette University unveiled about four months ago also found that 77% of the respondents reject the use of race as a factor for college admissions.

President of Organization for Justice and Equality, Frank Lee (李少敏), stated, “Diversity cannot be the excuse and should not supersede the principles of real equality and justice. Prop 16, if approved, lowers the standard of excellence in our society and creates more unjust situations. Everybody in the public sector will be affected, not just those for college application. Our society cannot afford to have such big regression! Despite the lead in the polls, we must not be relaxed and should work together to the end of our tether to block Prop 16. which is baneful and unacceptable!”

“Regardless of whether Prop 16 gives rise to a quota system, evaluation based on race, national origin, or gender is wrong.” Chairwoman of Greater San Gabriel Valley Safe Community Foundation, Julie Liu (劉風嵐), maintained, “We in Southern California have been fighting hard against ACA5 and Prop 16 continuously. This is a crucial battle against racial discrimination and thus Californians must stand up tenaciously until we prevail.”

“For true equality and racial justice to happen, there must be no preferential treatment due to one’s skin color. Preferential treatment for one ethnic group is discrimination against the others. Everybody must vote No on Prop 16 and spread the news,” Joel Eng (伍均祥), President of Chinese American Institute for Empowerment, encouraged everyone.

U.S. Supreme Court only allows the narrow usage of affirmative action (Fisher vs. University of Texas at Austin 2016). For a university to employ affirmative action, it has to jump over the hurdles of compelling interest test and narrow usage test. We are very skeptical as to whether every program enacted by Prop 16 can meet the major guidelines of U.S. Supreme Court.

Finally, Martin Luther King once said, “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Our coalition maintains that Californians cannot let Prop 209 be overturned. We need it to make Martin Luther’s dream come true.

Suffice it to say, California must work assiduously and combine our effort to make it a perfect whole to block the regressive Prop 16 which, if approved, will legalize racial discrimination and sex discrimination outright! This is a pivotal battle for the state of California and our future generations. We must vote No on Prop 16 and tell everybody to do the same.

