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Statement in response to the US Supreme Court's Decision in Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina and Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College

29 JUNE 2023

The following is a statement by funders and philanthropic organizations in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings in *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*. A full list of signatories follows.

The Supreme Court's decision impedes colleges and universities from selecting their own student bodies and fully addressing systemic racial inequalities that persist. The ruling threatens to return this nation to a time when education and opportunity are reserved for a privileged class. It endangers 60 years of multiracial movements to challenge our nation to live up to the ideals enshrined in our founding documents. The decision erects new barriers to building a society in which everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives, communities, health, and education.

Today's ruling will make the vital work of building inclusive college campuses much harder. Experience has shown that substituting socioeconomic status as a proxy for race will not achieve the diversity that strengthens the fabric of all universities. Educators and communities dedicated to teaching and mentoring young people and adults from every imaginable background understand how all students — not just students of color — benefit from diverse racial and socioeconomic learning environments. Decades of research show that students educated with people from

different backgrounds and experiences improve their analytical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. These skills are essential to building our future workforce, our military, and a healthy democracy. In the realm of health, research shows that racially and ethnically representative medical schools produce better-trained physicians and care teams that reflect the communities they serve.

Universities and colleges and those organizations supporting them deserve the resources and support to continue their critical mission. They need our resolve, too. Philanthropies are vital partners in our nation's progress. We will remain steadfast in our collective mission to create a more equitable nation within the bounds of the law. To forge ahead, we must continue to advocate for the human dignity of all people — regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or country of origin — with renewed vigor and commitment.

Our nation's future prosperity, vitality, and unity depend upon America becoming a true multiracial democracy — an aspiration that requires racial equity and diversity in higher education. Despite today's ruling, our foundations will not waver in our commitment to those making the nation's high ideals a reality for all communities and all people.

Signatories of this statement:

(note: this list will be updated periodically)

ABFE

ACCESS Health International

AJL Foundation

Akonadi Foundation

Archstone Foundation

Asset Funders Network

Barr Foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Borealis Philanthropy

Brooklyn Community Foundation

Builders Vision

California Health Care Foundation

Center for Effective Philanthropy

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies

Charles F. Kettering Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Ciencia Puerto Rico

CoGenerate

College Success Foundation

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Council on Foundations

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

David Rockefeller Fund

Democracy Fund

Disability & Philanthropy Forum

Diversity Works

East Bay Community Foundation

ECMC Foundation

Edward Hazen Foundation

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Fairfield County's Community Foundation

Fenton Communications

Ford Foundation

Foundation for Health Equity

Funders Concerned About AIDS

Funders Together to End Homelessness

Grantmakers for Education

Grantmakers In Health

Grantmakers in the Arts

Great MN Schools

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Health Forward Foundation

Healthy Communities Foundation

Heising-Simons Foundation

Hispanics in Philanthropy

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Horizon Foundation
Humanity United
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Imaginable Futures
Independent Sector
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
John Rex Endowment
Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Levi Strauss Foundation
Lewis Latimer House Museum
López-Wagner Strategies
Lumina Foundation
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
Mat-Su Health Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Mellon Foundation
Mertz Gilmore Foundation
MetroWest Health Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Ms. Foundation for Women
New Breath Foundation
North Star Fund
Northwest Area Foundation
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Point32Health Foundation
Raikes Foundation
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Rx Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Scherman Foundation

SchoolHouse Connection

Schott Foundation for Public Education

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Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Smith & Connors

SoCal Grantmakers

Spencer Foundation

Spitfire Strategies

Stuart Foundation

Stupski Foundation

Surdna Foundation

TBG Fund Development & Media Consultants

The Boston Foundation

The California Endowment

The California Wellness Foundation

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

The Commonwealth Fund

The Communications Network

The Denver Foundation

The FrameWorks Institute

The Funders Network

The George Gund Foundation

The James Irvine Foundation

The Joyce Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

The Libra Foundation

The Miami Foundation

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation

The NUNA Foundation

The Open Society Foundations

The Praxis Project

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Schmidt Family Foundation

The Skillman Foundation

The Spencer Foundation

Threespot

United Way of Rhode Island

UU Class Conversations

Wail of a Tale Productions

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

WES Mariam Assefa Fund

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

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THE FORD FOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation is an independent organization working to address inequality and build a future grounded in justice. For more than 85 years, it has supported visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. Today, with an endowment of \$16 billion, the foundation has headquarters in New York and 10 regional offices across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

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