

## TOPLINE MESSAGING FROM

# ASIAN AMERICAN ADVOCATES FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

In June 2023, we are expecting a Supreme Court decision on race conscious admissions policies at public and private universities across the country. In the event of a decision that in any way limits the ability of universities to consider race and racial diversity in admissions, we recommend centering the following key points, particularly from Asian American advocates.

### 1. Regardless of the decision, we are steadfast in our values and affirm that race and racial diversity still matters.

- a. Research shows that diversity is essential to our society: more diverse schools, workplaces, and other environments foster robust work and learning.

### 2. Asian Americans consistently support and benefit from affirmative action.

- a. These policies have driven progress in key areas of representation for all communities of color, whether in classrooms, company boardrooms, or in mainstream media.
- b. Over two thirds of Asian Americans support affirmative action, according to an [AAPI Data poll](#) conducted in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese.

### 3. Beyond affirmative action policies, Asian Americans in solidarity with other communities of color must be at the forefront in advocating for education equity.

- a. Affirmative action is a key tool to advance equity, foster diversity, and repair injustice. It is a minimum floor and we want the ceiling with regards to ensuring access for all.
- b. Key policies and programs include:
  - i. Implementing more equitable admissions practices, such as eliminating preferences for children of alumni or going SAT/ACT test-optional.
  - ii. Investing and partnering at the K-12 level to support college recruitment and preparation programs.
  - iii. Supporting racial diversity after admissions, using disaggregated data, to encourage diverse student matriculation. Examples include expanded financial aid or mentorship programs for first generation college students.

### 4. Education should allow students to follow their dreams, celebrate their identities, and reach their full potential.

- a. Rather than center hyper competition that allows so few of us to thrive, we need to build a world that supports all students.
- b. Key policies and programs include:
  - i. Investing in community colleges and public universities.
  - ii. Promoting instruction in multiple languages for linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom.
  - iii. Teaching Ethnic Studies to help students learn the true history of America.

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