



PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

Resolution in Response to 2023 Affirmative Action Decision of the Supreme Court of the United States

Whereas, utterly reprehensible and harmful to the future of American economics and democracy, this recent Supreme Court decision to end Affirmative action shreds one of the few extant, hard-fought achievements of the Civil Rights Era, a moment in American history PNBC members worked to realize. This decision, as much as any other, dramatizes that elections have consequences;

Whereas, Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson proffered, "It is no small irony that the judgment the majority hands down today will forestall the end of race-based disparities in this country, making the colorblind world the majority wistfully touts much more difficult to accomplish";

Whereas, to disqualify any consideration to race in institutional processes fraught with racism is to deny the lingering dangers of the legacy of race-based slavery in the US. Race and racism baked into the fabric of higher education in this country necessitated Affirmative Action policies for storied education ecosystems like Harvard University and the University of North Carolina for roughly the last six decades;

Whereas, the racial tribulations experienced by nonwhite college applicants in the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination persist in our post-Trumpism, COVID-19-impacted time. Almost 70 years after Brown v. Board of Education, equality remains a pipedream in the white imagination without equitable policies that intentionally and strategically address the enduring sins of racial segregation;

Whereas, in *Silencing White Noise: Six Practices to Overcome our Inaction on Race*, this is called the colorblind racist myth of “equal opportunism,” where privileged communities frame equity provisions and programs like affirmative action as reverse discrimination against hardworking White people or unfair biases for undeserving nonwhite people. The myth of “equal opportunism” errantly clings to the promises of America and values sacrificed for and championed by social struggles like abolition and the Civil Rights Movement without accounting for the existence of barriers and exclusion experienced by nonwhite people to this day;

Whereas, as dangerous as White Christian Nationalism and interpersonal racism prove to be, this legal assault strips us of the illusion that our government possesses a thoroughgoing devotion to racial justice. With the stroke of pens, six White Supreme Court justices cast their lot with anti-Blackness in ways that will facilitate a slow death for millions of students. This ruling is an odious tactic to keep wealth White, education White, freedom White, and opportunity White;

Be it resolved that The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC) categorically rejects the Supreme Court ruling that disallows colleges and universities, particularly historically White institutions, to use race as a factor in admissions. We believe this is not the final word on race-specific affirmative action, and our advocacy will mirror that conviction;

Be it further resolved, affirmative action gives nonwhite students the pathways they deserve and racism structurally denied their intelligent ancestors. Race-conscious discrimination faced by Black students and families still requires race-conscious equity practices. In a word, colorblind racism is racism;

Be it further resolved, this 6-3 decision along ideological lines will not preclude the massive resolve to build Black political and economic power in this would-be White republic;

Be it further resolved, inspired by the words of Dr. King—a son of our convention, Associate Justice Sonya Sotomayor dissented, “As has been the case before in the history of American democracy, ‘the arc of the moral universe’ will bend toward racial justice despite the Court’s efforts today to impede progress”;

Therefore, backsliding toward segregated college is a ferocious aftershock of the 2016 election. This is more than enough impetus for us to activate our 1.9 million members to impact the 2024 election. Likewise, PNBC will continue to partner with the nation's HBCUs and Black churches to ensure the growth of the Black middle class.