

On October 31, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States will hear oral arguments for two court cases on affirmative action: *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina*. The petitioner, SFFA, is asking the Court to overturn over forty years of established law, which upholds the legal precedent of considering race as one of many factors in a holistic and individualized admissions process for institutions of higher learning. By trying to ban affirmative action in higher education, SFFA attempts to roll back civil rights and further marginalize communities of color despite longstanding and widely acknowledged inequalities in our educational system. And when claiming to represent the interests of Asian American students, SFFA fails to acknowledge the rich diversity within the AAPI community and how all students, regardless of their race, benefit educationally from the diversity of their fellow classmates.

**As students at colleges and universities across America, we unilaterally reject SFFA's arguments on affirmative action.** The inclusion of students from all paths of life has and will continue to contribute to the diversity of the student body, which benefits all students by affirming the importance of our histories and experiences, by allowing us to become more thoughtful and critical thinkers, and opening pathways to professional opportunities that have too often been reserved for those with more privileges and resources. **We, the undersigned, believe that race-conscious college admission policies support racial equity in education.** We collectively call upon our respective institutions to publicly declare their support for affirmative action in higher education. To students, alumni, and other community members at our institutions, we urge you to support our call to action, and put pressure on your individual campuses and administrations to explicitly support affirmative action. Allies must take an active stance against all levels of inequalities in our society through active participation and education.

Students of color are systematically afforded fewer opportunities to amass the traditional credentials valued by universities, but are nonetheless qualified to compete for university admission. Without affirmative action, the number of students of color from marginalized backgrounds will drop drastically: research findings have established that admission rates of Black, Latine, and Native students consistently fall by 50 to 60% after bans on affirmative action policies.

There are immeasurable benefits to attending universities alongside a diverse group of peers. Research in stereotype threat and stigma consciousness statistically shows that academic performance and college graduation gaps shrink between white students and students of color when students study in diverse environments and experience critical mass with communities of color on campus. Three amicus briefs signed by 82 major American businesses and business organizations, in support of Harvard, stated that they highly value the contributions of those educated in a diverse environment. Econometrician and Nobel Economics Prize winner David Card also proved in his 2017 expert report for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts that Harvard's admissions process shows no statistical significance or validity with SFFA's claims that Harvard discriminates against Asian American applicants. It is of the utmost importance to secure a representative student body because a true college education, not to mention personal growth, takes place both inside and outside the classroom—affirmative action helps to do just that.

But our work does not end here: we invite all students to join us for a peaceful protest on the steps of the Supreme Court on Monday, October 31. Educate yourself and your colleagues using this activism toolkit, sign up to receive free mobilization resources by [joining the student working group on affirmative action](#). **Join the movement to #DefendDiversity and #AffirmOpportunity today.**

**To sign this statement, please go to [tinyurl.com/aaxnsignon](https://tinyurl.com/aaxnsignon).**

**Signed,**

Angie Shin, Harvard Affirmative Action Coalition, Harvard College Class of 2023  
Hannah Lee, Princeton Asian American Students Association, Princeton University Class of 2024  
Jennifer Lee, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Princeton Asian American Students Association  
Harvard Affirmative Action Coalition  
Kelly Su, Cornell University's Asian Pacific Americans for Action, Cornell University Class of 2024  
Cornell University's Asian Pacific Americans for Action  
Veronica Marshall-Kirk, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Class of 2025  
Hans Bach-Nguyen, Harvard College Class of 2026  
Andrew Zuckerman  
Thuan Tran, Harvard College Class of 2023  
Muskaan Arshad, Harvard Affirmative Action Coalition  
Woohee Kim, Harvard University, PhD student  
Maya Jones  
Lorraine Blatt, University of Pittsburgh  
Joseph Hernandez  
Josh Alpert, Harvard Law School, Class of 2024  
Louis Lin, Harvard Law School, Class of 2025  
Ellen Teuscher, UT Austin Class of 2020, Harvard Law Class of 2025  
Cheyenne Teng  
Linhan Shen, Princeton University Dept. of Geosciences  
Oliver Ma  
Christina Williams, Harvard Law School, Class of 2025  
Willem Alleyne, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Jaden Sharp, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Justin Smallwood, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Jason Diego Fuller, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Kit Foster, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Dorothy Chan, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Nazdar Ayzit, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Kurdish Society of Princeton University  
Danielle Samake, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Beianka Tomlinson  
Emily Paulin, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Thia Bian, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Eesha Agarwal, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Seth Kahn, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
James Robinson, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Melvi Agolli, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Brandon Matthew Gauthier, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Hailey Lambert, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Alexander S. MacArthur, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Jessica Wang, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Eleanor Clemans-Cope, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Audrey Royall, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Sam Pathak, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Priyanka Aiyer, Princeton University, Class of 2023

Simeel Angdembe, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Faith Best, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Orli Epstein, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Shayna Maleson, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Evelyn Howe, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Madeleine Chong, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Ashira Shirali, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Jahir Morris, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Melina Mahood, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Yuka Childers, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Gil Sander Joseph, Princeton University  
Orlson Aine Joseph, Princeton University, Class of 2022  
Abdul-Bassit Fijabi, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Tiffany Huang, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Emilly Santos, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Tyler Bennett, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Marty Sharma, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
George Tidmore  
Anagha Rajagopalan, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Alana Hoffert, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Rachel Chen, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Corazón Núñez, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Mira Ho-Chen, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Abigail Stafford, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Samantha Lucien, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Collin Guedel, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Alexa Marsh, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Sabrina Kim, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Taryn Sebba, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Kate Voltz, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Shruti Roy, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
David Eniola  
Giselle Schrier, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Angelica Qin, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Princeton University's East West Theater Company  
Jose Luis Ortiz, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Jordan Johnson, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Luke Carroll, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Christina Cho, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Ned Dockery, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Liam O'Shaughnessy, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Albert Lee, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Vivian Chen, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Mary Kumcheva, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Isabella Swartz, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Zoe San Martin, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Ella Weber, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Ana Villada, Princeton University, Class of 2024

Hiba Siddiki, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Lu Esteban, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Thomas Coulouras, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Samantha Handwerk, Princeton University, Class of 2026  
Janice Wong, Harvard University, Class of 2025  
Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association  
Fariha Begum, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Sophia Chang, Princeton University, Class of 2025  
Janelle Arnold, Princeton University, Class of 2023  
Hannah Wallach, Harvard Law School, Class of 2023  
Hanako Helton, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Princeton University's Towards an Inclusive Community of Undergraduate Physicists  
Lawrence Azzariti, Princeton University, Class of 2024  
Phong Nguyen, Stanford University, Class of 2025  
Sunny Hu, Williams College, Class of 2024  
Williams College's Asian American Students in Action (AASiA)  
Isabelle Philip, University of Georgia, Class of 2024  
Resty Fufunan, Yale University, Class of 2024  
Yale Asian American Students Alliance  
Anh Nguyen, Yale University, Class of 2026  
Lucy Ton That, Yale University, Class of 2026  
Elisa Cruz, Yale University, Class of 2026  
Patricia Joseph, Yale University, Class of 2026  
Yolanda Wang, Yale University, Class of 2026  
Sonam Tenzin Wangchuk, Yale University, Class of 2026