



January 20, 2021

[via email and mail]

University of California Board of Regents
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607
regentsoffice@ucop.edu

Dear Board of Regents,

On behalf of Californians for Equal Rights (CFER), a non-profit and non-political organization dedicated to promoting and educating the public on the important principles of equality and merit, I am writing to express our strong opposition to a proposed policy change (B2) to abolish all standardized testing and to refrain from adopting a new admissions test in University of California's undergraduate admissions. I urge you to fully consider the ramifications of such a sweeping plan as well as the critical input of the diverse communities you must be accountable to.

Dropping empirically designed tests in UC's process of selecting incoming students is a politicized and misguided attempt to cover up true causes behind achievement and opportunity gaps. Both the December 2019 lawsuit and a slew of UC top officials precipitating such a change falsely correlate a student's standardized test performance with his or her socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. This faulty line of reasoning irresponsibly disregards the complex underlying problems behind falling quality of education in underrepresented communities while further skews the already contentious dialogue on college admissions.

Furthermore, replacing academic selection with more subjective school-level factors (GPAs) will exacerbate the issue of "grade inflation" and deprive underrepresented students of their fair opportunities to succeed through hard work. This systematic change will ostensibly weaken our STEM education and our nation's technological leadership by eliminating a common and realistic metric to efficiently measure students' mastery of scientific knowledge. At a time when "only 16% of AAAS (the American Association for the Advancement of Science) and 29% of the general public rank U.S. STEM education for grades K-12 and above average or the best in the world", de-emphasizing academics in college admissions will only further jeopardize our nation's economic and educational competitiveness in the world.

Without a fair and transparent process offered by standardized testing and decision making guided by objective data, our colleges cannot select and educate the best and brightest. Neither can they effectively prepare our students to join the 21st century global workforce. Our national competitiveness and economic leadership in the world would suffer as a consequence. In



addition, this precipitous plan to abandon standardized testing will perpetuate educational inequalities without delivering any meaningful changes to enhance academic performance, college readiness and future workplace success. Most importantly, this assault on merit and excellence can greatly compromise California's constitutional principle of equal treatment with a purpose to socially engineer and racially balance your student body composition.

Therefore, CFER demands that we be involved in a fair consultation process and have dynamic and productive discussions with you on how we can collectively improve the college admissions system by addressing existing disparities in primary and educational education in a holistic, sustainable and transparent manner.

Regards,

Wenyuan Wu

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Executive Director

Californians for Equal Rights (CFER)

Safeguard Equal Rights with Public Education, Policy Advocacy and Civic Engagement

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