



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The data is clear. In response to the recent Supreme Court decisions to block both the Biden student debt relief program and the use of affirmative action race-conscious policies in college admissions, this is our statement from CIO & Owner, Alina J. Johnson:

“In response to longstanding historical efforts to stem the progress of Black, African-Americans for full participation in citizenship, education, employment, housing, voting, and other economic advancements in this American life, **affirmative action** sought to accelerate equity and enforce bans on discrimination, segregation, and systemic racism. As the pursuit and attainment of **higher education** is inexorably tied to gainful employment and suitable housing, it is imperative that all reasonable means of access to education – including the elimination of structural barriers – be pursued and set into law. Be denying both affirmative action and **student loan debt relief**, the Supreme Court has once again failed the most vulnerable Americans, as affirmative action is yet a promise unfulfilled and loans are a debt to be repaid. Study after study report that the current policies do little to nothing to promote college access, affordability, or college degree (or certificate) completion. It is clear that the inaction – by way of denial – of the Supreme Court to boldly deliberate and decide that race consciousness (affirmative action) and ability to pay (loan debt) are yet another shame on the court in the manner of Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857), Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), Buck v. Bell (1927), and Korematsu v. United States (1944).

What a cowardly day in America! Under-represented and underserved American families should not have to wait for the law to afford education prosperity and equity to them. Only when the Supreme Court recognizes and addresses the structural barriers that are a direct result of the historical and systematic errors in our systems – such as Education - will education prosperity and equity become a truth to be self-evident, as our great Preamble to the Declaration of Independence so boldly declared on July 4, 1776.”

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