



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BRIAN HARRISON

DISTRICT 10

June 30, 2023

Governor Abbott:

Thank you for championing conservative priorities during the regular legislative session, including banning racially discriminatory practices like diversity, equity, and inclusion in our public universities. Recognizing there is more to do, you also rightfully called for special legislative sessions.

Considering yesterday's historic Supreme Court decision striking down explicit and facially racist affirmative action practices in universities, I believe that, without legislative action, Texans might not fully realize the benefits of this decision. We must build on this momentum and maximally protect our citizens from government-sanctioned discrimination on the basis of race.

I respectfully ask that you immediately add to the call for this special session a ban on all race-based admission, employment, and contracting practices in public universities, private universities that accept federal money, and all government entities, including political subdivision. I appreciate your chief of staff's memo to state agencies in February directing them to end race-based employment practices. The Legislature should also codify this prohibition into law.

As Justice Thomas rightfully stated yesterday in his concurrence in *Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard University*, race-based employment and admission policies that are predicated on a fallacious linking of race with individual outcomes "is an insult to individual achievement and cancerous to young minds seeking to push through barriers, rather than consign themselves to permanent victimhood."

Texas should not tolerate these racist policies, but rather should act on the sentiments Justice John Roberts articulated in the opinion when he explained that "eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it."

Acting boldly now will more quickly help Texas make Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of living in a state and nation where people are "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" a reality.

Taxpayer-funded racism has no place in the great state of Texas. I'm sure you agree, and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Harrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.