

**San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education  
San Diego, California**

VIA EMAIL

February 10, 2023

Board of Trustees  
San Diego Unified School District  
4100 Normal Street  
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear Trustees:

The San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education is a coalition that has monitored the status of our local Chicano/Latino community in higher education for over thirty years. We address this correspondence in support of the recent letter by Project YANO demanding that the San Diego Unified School District comply with the California Education Code regarding JROTC enrollment. Specifically, we support Project YANO's demand that you comply with Education Code section 51750, which mandates that "No student . . . shall be required to enroll in any course in military science and tactics."

Our demand also reflects the opinion of the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild. For our San Diego Concilio, the automatic enrollment of Chicano/Latino and other underrepresented students of color constitutes an act of institutional racism. For far too long, school districts across the U.S. Southwest have steered Chicano/Latino students into a career in the military or border patrol rather than matriculating to a college or university. This racist policy contributes to the under-enrollment of Chicano/Latino students in higher education, including in some of San Diego's colleges and universities. Such a policy is clearly unacceptable.

We support the specific actions by the San Diego Unified School District called for by Project YANO:

- Immediately initiate a review of current district practices that enroll students in military science courses.
- Immediately initiate school board policy to halt the auto-enrollment of students in such courses.
- Immediately initiate protocol, including a standard consent form, that provides students and parents with the information needed for fully informed consideration of enrollment.
- Report annually the developed protocols and JROTC enrollment data by school and grade level.

- Immediately cease the practice of using JROTC as a default alternative to physical education.

Our San Diego Concilio demands an end to any current practice that channels Chicano/Latino and other underrepresented students of color into JROTC courses or programs. Our students and their parents deserve better from their school district.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, San Diego Concilio