



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05

Resolution of the Board of Trustees Ventura County Community College District in SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT No. 5

WHEREAS, Native American, Latino, Black, Pacific Islander, and other people of color and women have historically faced racism and discrimination in the United States (U.S.), including the denial of equal opportunity in employment and equal access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government in the late 1960s established affirmative action policies to address discrimination and bias in hiring, government contracts, and access to higher education towards racial minorities and women; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996 amended the California Constitution by prohibiting the consideration of race, sex, and ethnicity in admission to public employment, public education, and public contracting; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 strongly inhibited California state and local governments' ability to remedy the continuing effects of past discrimination through race-conscious programs such as those designed to ensure access to higher education through the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, the effect of Proposition 209 was to reduce the percentages of Black, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Latino students admitted to public institutions of higher education in California, placing it in direct conflict with the goals of the California Community Colleges *Vision for Success* framework by making it more difficult to close equity gaps; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 contributes to reducing the "pipeline" of candidates of color for faculty positions by lowering transfer and graduation rates of students representing communities of color; and

WHEREAS, California has the fifth largest and strongest economy in the world but Proposition 209 has prevented full participation in the state's economic prosperity for over two decades for all Californians, and represents a step backwards for people of color and women by limiting their access to economic opportunities and higher education; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 209 has cost women and minority-owned businesses \$1.1 billion each year and perpetuated gender and racial wage gaps and has allowed discriminatory hiring and contracting processes to continue unhindered; and

WHEREAS, California is one of only eight states that does not allow race or gender to be considered in hiring, or allotting state contracts, or accepting students into the state's public colleges and universities in order to remedy the effects of generations of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges system, comprised of 2.1 million students and 115 campuses, provides a wide variety of special programs and support services for students and is committed to serving California residents, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Community College District is unwavering in its support and promotion of programs, initiatives, and policies designed to instill values associated with community and inclusion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that California Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5, if approved by the voters of California, would repeal Proposition 209 and eliminate the state prohibition on the use of race and sex, and other characteristics in considering admission to higher education; and be it further


RESOLVED that the Ventura County Community College District urges the State Legislature and all residents of the state to uphold California values and support California Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5, which will permit students, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin, to access social and economic opportunities to achieve their highest potential.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of June 2020 by the following votes:

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

Ventura County Community College District

By: 
Bernardo M. Perez, Chair
Ventura County Community College District
Board of Trustees

Attested to: 
Greg Gillespie, Chancellor
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Ventura County Community College District