

Governor Phil Murphy

Statement from Governor Murphy on the U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action

06/29/2023

TRENTON – In response to the United States Supreme Court ruling today to overturn affirmative action policies in regards to college admissions, Governor Murphy condemned the decision and reaffirmed his Administration's commitment to promoting diversity and equity in New Jersey.

The Supreme Court's decision prevents institutions of higher education from considering a student's race as a factor in its holistic review of each applicant for admissions – an approach the Court has long considered permissible and that has helped students of color overcome barriers to higher education and career paths that require a college or advanced degree.

"Sadly, this decision is yet another way in which the U.S. Supreme Court is taking our country backwards.

Systemic inequities remain stubbornly rooted in our society, yet a college degree has long offered a path to opportunity and financial success. For generations, equitable access to higher education has meant social mobility for those who come from under-resourced communities. That too has been the heart of the American Dream – that if you work hard, you can achieve your dreams. But today's decision will make it harder for many institutions to implement admissions policies that promote equitable access to education and that result in a student body whose members can learn from each other's diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

The Supreme Court's extreme stance does not reflect the values of New Jersey. My Administration remains committed to advancing equity in every area of our society and will be working with our partners in higher education to determine ways to promote equitable admissions within the constraints of this ruling."

Governor Phil Murphy

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