



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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June 23, 2020

The Honorable Shirley Weber
State Capitol Room 3123
P.O. Box 942845
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079

RE: ACA 5 (Weber): Government Preferences - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5) which allows voters to repeal provisions of Proposition 209 that have had negative impacts on access to higher education, as well as retention and degree completion for historically underserved students in California, particularly those from African-American communities.

Unfortunately, many proven strategies to improve educational equality and completion outcomes are directly prohibited by Prop. 209, i.e. focused student recruitment and programs based on race/ethnicity, focused programs for faculty of color, externally funded scholarships programs based on race/ethnicity, programs to recruit teachers candidates based on race/ethnicity, and student retention programs based on race/ethnicity.

It has been nearly 25 years since Prop. 209 was implemented in California. It is time to give voters the ability to revisit that decision. If Prop. 209 prohibitions were no longer in place, we could target resources and support structures for students to overcome institutionalized and systematic opportunity barriers.

Thank you for bringing this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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