



CALIFORNIA LATINO CAUCUS
LEADERSHIP PAC

July 20, 2017

Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Villaraigosa for Governor 2018
1801 Century Park East
Suite 1132
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Mr. Villaraigosa:

On behalf of the CA Latino Legislative Caucus and the CA Legislative Black Caucus, we are writing to you and each major declared candidate for the office of Governor in 2018 on a topic of great interest to our members. Each of our caucuses, as you may know, is driven by a mission to further the interests of all Californians through advocacy for programs and policies that promote diversity and empowerment. To that end, we would appreciate your candid thoughts and official position on affirmative action and related topics.

Unlike any other state in our nation, California is home to residents from all corners of the world. This diversity is California's greatest strength and it has helped fuel our economic growth in all fields from agriculture to technology. Notwithstanding such economic growth, we see perilous obstacles ahead if we do not address the underrepresentation of Latinos and African American students at our universities. Ever since the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996, the ability of our universities to outreach, recruit and, ultimately admit these minority students has been severely limited. In a state where sixty percent of the K-12 student population is made up of Latinos and African Americans, the urgency to establish a vibrant pipeline to our world class universities is profound. The need is just as urgent for greater diversity amongst our university faculty and staff.

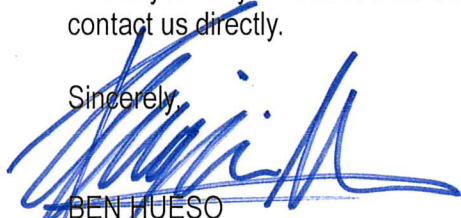
Given California's influence on the nation, the issue of enhancing diversity in our schools is neither a theoretical nor academic exercise. What can work here can work in other states. Indeed, California's policies on many topics from the expansion of immigrant rights to the development of programs to combat global warming have been adopted across the nation. So if California can effectively address the diversity gap, our ideas may be replicated elsewhere. Since you could be the next Governor of our great state, we look to you for leadership as well as ideas on how to effectively address the matter. Accordingly, we respectfully request your candid answers to the following questions:

1. What are your general views on affirmative action?
2. Proposition 209 was approved by California's voters over twenty years ago. What are your thoughts on the ramifications of this initiative since its approval?
3. Please detail your specific efforts to bolster diversity and address inequities in our state over the course of your distinguished career.
4. If elected Governor, please specify what programs and policies you would advocate for to increase diversity a) within our schools and universities; b) within state government; and c) on the boards of major corporations and non-profit organizations.

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Thank you for your attention to this important request. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



BEN HUESO
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Senator, 40th District



CHRIS HOLDEN
Chair, CA Legislative Black Caucus
Assembly Member, 41st District