

Dear Mrs. Speier,

I'd first like to commend you on your work in environmental causes and would like to express my appreciation of your working to improve energy legislation. In addition, I also appreciate your response to my message regarding the National Security Administration. Unfortunately, the purpose of this email is more than complimenting your movements in the environmental space and thanking you for your efforts in national security.

From my understanding, Senator Ed Hernandez has written a bill, namely CA SCA 5, that would repeal components of Proposition 209 that prohibited race and gender considerations from the University of California's admission policies. I strongly oppose said bill. Let me tell you why.

I'm a proud member of San Mateo High School. Last year, we had the pleasure of sending 10 alumni to University of California's Berkeley campus, five of which I know personally. In total, SMHS admitted 60 alumni to University of California schools last year. Approximately 46% of these students are Asian-American.

For example, one of my Asian-American friends currently at UC Berkeley is one of the hardest working individuals that I know. I met her on a Gifted and Talented Education business simulation program in which she represented the VP of Finance. The model company we had started succeeded in making a profit thanks to her efforts. I then noticed her on the swim team, where she assisted in making our Girls Swim team the first in its league. She also is extremely proficient academically. It is these characteristics, bundled with lovely personality and drive to learn, that admitted my friend to the University of California; and I hope that in the future, these same qualities will be recognized and appreciated by the University of California admissions process. But what happens if the "quota" for Asian-Americans is full?

I understand that by releasing such a bill, Senator Hernandez means to address the declining percentage of minority students in the University of California campuses, but I do not believe this is the correct approach. It is important to realize why the students admitted to the prestigious University of California schools are admitted.

Today, there are so many efforts that are occurring to help students succeed in education. I need not mention Mr. Obama's plans to increase connectivity in schools as part of his *Year of Action*. It is these efforts that need to be expanded in order to change the demographic in University of California schools; however, today, my most prominent concern is the quality of the University of California admissions.

Imagine if there exists a school who has an admission quota for 50 males and 50 females. In this hypothetical situation, imagine that there are 100 male applicants, and 100 female applicants. Suppose that this school quantifies the readiness of a student to attend on a scale from 1 to 10. Of the 100 males that have applied, 40 score an 8, and 5 score a 9, and 5 score a 10. Of the 100 females that have applied, 40 score 10, and 15 score 9.

Female Applicants	Male Applicants	Scores	Female Admits	Male Admits	Scores
40	5	10	40	5	10
15	5	9	10	5	9
5	40	8	0	40	8
40	50	< 8	50	50	Total

Due to the new bill, it would be possible for some of the females scoring 9 to be denied admission to a school despite their greater readiness for college than other males that are less prepared for college.

I'm helping start a charter school in our district, Design Tech High School, and I understand the desires of admitting a certain demographic of students in order to create balance throughout the student body; however, I also understand that doing so would be pure discrimination toward those students that should be given the same chance as their peers to receive a unique form of education.

I would really appreciate your feedback on my thoughts, but especially would appreciate your taking them into consideration when you cast your vote for SCA 5.

Thank you,

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