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HOPE, The Campaign for College Opportunity, and AJSOCAL Applaud Governor Gavin Newsom for Signing AB 1780 (Ting), Ending Legacy and Donor Preferences in Admissions in California

SACRAMENTO, CA (September 30, 2024) - Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE), The Campaign for College Opportunity, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) celebrate a major milestone for educational equity as Governor Gavin Newsom signs AB 1780, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), into law. Sponsored by all three organizations, this landmark legislation ends legacy and donor preferential admission practices at private nonprofit universities in California, making admissions fairer for all students.

Legacy admissions policies, which favor applicants with familial ties to alumni or donors, have disproportionately benefited affluent, white students, often at the expense of first-generation, low-income, and students of color. Research by The Campaign for College Opportunity shows that legacy applicants were 45% more likely to be admitted to selective institutions than equally qualified non-legacy candidates.

"If we value diversity in higher education, we must level the playing field. That means making the college application process more fair and equitable. Hard work, good grades and a well-rounded background should earn you a spot in the incoming class - not the size of the check your family can write or who you're related to. I thank the Governor for agreeing with me and supporters of AB 1780 - that every student deserves a fair shot at their dream school," said Assemblymember Ting.

This bill institutes equitable practices by ensuring that alumni or donor connections are not preferential factors screened for in the college admission process. In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 2023 to bar race-conscious admissions, this bill is a strong signal to all students that they belong on any college campus regardless of their family's wealth or connections.

"Governor Newsom's decision to sign AB 1780 reaffirms California's commitment to creating a fair and equitable higher education system," said Helen Torres, CEO of HOPE. "This law is a crucial step in removing barriers that disproportionately impact students of color and first-generation college students. We are proud to have co-sponsored this bill and are grateful to Governor Newsom and Assemblymember Ting for their leadership in addressing this longstanding inequity."

"The Campaign for College Opportunity is proud that California is rewriting its higher education legacy to be one of fairness and student-centered inclusion. AB 1780 ends the practice of rewarding the wealthy and connected, prioritizing college access for our most vulnerable students—many of whom are minoritized, low-income, and/or first generation—to ensure they finally have a fair shot at accessing a college education, graduating, and contributing to our multi-racial democracy and economy," said Jessie Ryan, President of the Campaign.

Connie Chung Joe, CEO of AJSOCAL added, "AJSOCAL applauds Governor Newsom and the California Legislature for their resounding support and passage of AB1780. This new law will close the unfair loophole of 'legacy' and financial influence at private universities, creating opportunities for disadvantaged, first-generation, and students of color. This is a key win for Asian American and Pacific Islander students in California, as research shows that 86% come from immigrant families and do not have the generations of family connections to make them shoo-ins for admissions. We thank Assemblymember Ting and our co-sponsors for their partnership and collaboration for this significant victory in the ongoing fight to provide disadvantaged students a fair shot at their future."

About Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) - HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has empowered our communities through advocacy, Latina leadership training, and increasing knowledge on the contributions Latinas have made to advance the status of women for the past 35 years. To date, HOPE's innovative programming has served 65,000 Latinas and touched the lives of several thousand more through our advocacy. For more information on HOPE, please visit Latinas.org or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#).

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