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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 178**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Diaz and Firebaugh**  
**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members, Chan, Horton,**  
**Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Steinberg, and Wesson)**  
(Principal coauthors: Senators Alarcon, Polanco, and Romero)  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Koretz, and**  
**Strom-Martin)**

March 21, 2002

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 178—Relative to the University of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 178, as amended, Diaz. University of California: admissions process.

This measure would request the Regents of the University of California to implement a comprehensive ~~review or a holistic~~ approach in the respective admissions processes of the university's various graduate programs and professional schools, to include a broad variety of academic and personal qualifications, by the end of the 2002–03 academic year. The review requested would include revising the admissions policies of graduate programs and professional schools, to

include a broader variety of important qualifications, and evaluation of the weight and value given to these qualifications, so that standardized test scores are not the overriding criterion used to determine admissions. The measure would also request the regents to prohibit, by the end of the 2002–03 academic year, standardized test scores from being used as the sole criterion for consideration of the applicant for, or as the primary criterion to end consideration of the applicant for, admission to the university’s various graduate programs and professional schools. The measure would request the regents to make a description of the factors considered by each graduate program or professional school in making admissions decisions reasonably available to any interested person, ~~including~~ *by* publishing the description of the factors in each graduate program and professional schools’ ~~catalog~~ *catalogue*, and making the information available on their respective Internet Web sites.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The University of California is committed to  
2 enrolling a student body reflective of the diversity of the State of  
3 California; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the results of the 2000 census of the  
5 United States, people of color comprise the majority of the general  
6 population of the State of California, making it the most racially  
7 and ethnically diverse state in the country; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the last seven years, there has been a  
9 dramatic decrease in the number of underrepresented people of  
10 color, which include African-American, Latino, and American  
11 Indian students, applying, admitted, and enrolling in the graduate  
12 programs and professional schools of the University of California;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, From fall 1994 to fall 2001, inclusive, the number  
15 of African-Americans admitted to law schools at UC Berkeley, UC  
16 Davis, and UCLA declined 55 percent, from a total of 239 to 107,  
17 and their enrollment rate over the same period declined 68 percent,  
18 from a total of 87 to only 28; and

19 WHEREAS, From fall 1994 to fall 2001, inclusive, the number  
20 of Latinos admitted to law schools at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and  
21 UCLA declined 33 percent, from a total of 273 to 184, and their  
22 enrollment rate over the same period declined 48 percent, from a  
23 total of 110 to only 57; and



1 WHEREAS, From fall 1994 to fall 2001, inclusive, the number  
2 of American Indians admitted to law schools at UC Berkeley, UC  
3 Davis, and UCLA declined 65 percent, from a total of 34 to 12, and  
4 their enrollment rate over the same period declined 58 percent,  
5 from a total of 12 to only 5; and

6 WHEREAS, From fall 1994 to fall 2001, inclusive, the number  
7 of underrepresented people of color admitted to UC medical  
8 schools declined 36 percent, from a total of 261 to 166, and their  
9 enrollment rate over the same period declined 54 percent, from a  
10 total of 107 to only 49; and

11 WHEREAS, From fall 1995 to fall 1999, inclusive, the number  
12 of underrepresented people of color admitted to UC business  
13 schools declined 34 percent, from a total of 149 to 99, and their  
14 enrollment rate over the same period declined 35 percent, from a  
15 total of 68 to only 44; and

16 WHEREAS, From fall 1995 to fall 1999, inclusive, the number  
17 of underrepresented people of color admitted to all of the UC  
18 graduate programs declined 7 percent, from a total of 1,385 to  
19 1,291, and their acceptance rate over the same period declined 5  
20 percent, from a total of 751 to only 714; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the last seven years, there has also been a  
22 significant decrease in the number of Asians/Asian Americans and  
23 Filipino Americans admitted and enrolled at certain graduate  
24 programs and professional schools of the University of California;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, From fall 1995 to the fall 2000, the number of  
27 Filipino Americans admitted to law schools at UC Berkeley, UC  
28 Davis, and UCLA declined 21 percent, from a total of 33 to 26, and  
29 their enrollment rate over the same period declined 35 percent,  
30 from a total of 17 to only 11; and

31 WHEREAS, From fall 1995 to the fall 1999, the number of  
32 Asians/Asian Americans admitted to UC graduate programs  
33 declined 10 percent, from a total of 2,333 to 2,111, and their  
34 acceptance rate over the same period declined 13 percent, from a  
35 total of 1,097 to only 950; and

36 WHEREAS, These dramatic declines in the numbers of  
37 underrepresented people of color admitted to, and enrolling in,  
38 University of California graduate programs and professional  
39 schools has discouraged underrepresented people of color from



1 applying to graduate programs and professional schools they  
2 perceive as hostile and unwelcoming; and

3 ~~WHEREAS, It is vital to the future economic growth of the~~  
4 ~~State of California that equal educational opportunities are~~  
5 ~~available to all Californians; and~~

6 WHEREAS, Limiting educational opportunities in higher  
7 education at the graduate and professional school level perpetuates  
8 inequity among Californians; and

9 WHEREAS, The dramatic decline in the numbers of  
10 underrepresented people of color admitted to, and enrolling in,  
11 University of California graduate programs and professional  
12 schools harms all students because their education is without the  
13 benefit of the perspectives those ~~now-absent~~ *now-absent* students  
14 once brought to classroom discussions; and

15 WHEREAS, The dramatic decline in the number of  
16 underrepresented people of color enrolling in University of  
17 California graduate programs and professional schools contributes  
18 to a declining number of underrepresented people of color entering  
19 into professions, such as law, business, education, and medicine;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The UC Medical Student Diversity Task Force  
22 reported in their 2000 ~~“Special~~ *“Special* Report on Medical  
23 Student ~~Diversity~~ *Diversity”* that research focusing on access to  
24 health services has repeatedly shown that physicians from groups  
25 traditionally underrepresented in medicine, are more likely to  
26 serve those from minority and economically disadvantaged  
27 backgrounds, to practice in physician shortage areas, and to serve  
28 patients with chronic illnesses and multiple diagnosis; and

29 ~~WHEREAS, While the University of California has expanded~~  
30 ~~the total number of applicants admitted into its medical schools,~~  
31 ~~the number of physicians and other medical professionals serving~~  
32 ~~in underserved communities has decreased; and~~

33 ~~WHEREAS, The National Academies’ Institute of Medicine~~  
34 ~~has recommended that health institutions must strive to strengthen~~  
35 ~~the diversity of the medical workforce; and~~

36 WHEREAS, The American Bar Association’s Commission on  
37 Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession reported that  
38 representation by people of color in the legal profession is  
39 significantly lower than in most other professions, that entry into  
40 the profession by people of color has slowed considerably since



1 1995, and that enrollment by people of color has dropped  
2 significantly at top public law schools in California; and

3 WHEREAS, The current admissions policies of the University  
4 of California’s graduate programs and professional schools are too  
5 narrow, and do not allow for a large number of qualified students  
6 of color to be admitted and enrolled; and

7 WHEREAS, The University of California has already approved  
8 a proposal to utilize a “comprehensive review” for its freshman  
9 admissions process to consider a broad variety of academic and  
10 personal qualifications; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate Select Committee on College and  
12 University Admissions and Outreach held five hearings during the  
13 2001 legislative session on diversity in higher education, and ~~their~~  
14 *its* concluding report, “Increasing Access and Promoting  
15 Excellence: Diversity in California Public Higher Education,”  
16 urges the University of California to explore the possibility of  
17 adopting *a* comprehensive application-selection process to guide  
18 individual departments in choosing their graduate students; and

19 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas approved  
20 legislation (HB 1641) in the 2001 legislative session to broaden its  
21 admissions criteria to include additional important factors, and to  
22 prevent standardized test scores from being used as the sole  
23 criterion for consideration of the applicant, or as the primary  
24 criterion to end consideration of the applicant, for its graduate  
25 programs and professional schools; and

26 ~~WHEREAS, Standardized test scores continue to be a major~~  
27 ~~obstacle for the admission of underrepresented people of color to~~  
28 ~~the University of California’s graduate and professional schools;~~  
29 ~~and~~

30 ~~WHEREAS, Over reliance on standardized test scores, to the~~  
31 ~~exclusion of other valuable admissions information, exacerbates~~  
32 ~~the problem of low admission and enrollment rates of people of~~  
33 ~~color in the UC graduate and professional schools; and~~

34 ~~WHEREAS, The Educational Testing Service (ETS), which~~  
35 ~~administers some of the standardized tests for graduate program~~  
36 ~~and professional school admissions, warns against over reliance~~  
37 ~~on such tests, and urges that many measures of merit be~~  
38 ~~considered; and~~

39 *WHEREAS, Standardized test scores, as the sole criterion or as*  
40 *the primary criterion to end consideration of an applicant, could*



1 *well constitute a major obstacle to the admission of*  
2 *underrepresented people of color to the University of California's*  
3 *graduate and professional schools, and the overreliance on*  
4 *standardized test scores, to the exclusion of other valuable*  
5 *admissions information, exacerbates the problem of low*  
6 *admission and enrollment rates of people of color; and*

7 *WHEREAS, Industry standards and guidelines militate against*  
8 *using standardized test scores as the sole criterion for making*  
9 *important decisions that impact people's lives, and support the use*  
10 *of multiple measures to make high-stakes decisions, when these*  
11 *measures are available and will add to the validity of the decision;*  
12 *and*

13 *WHEREAS, The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC), the*  
14 *organization that administers the Law School Admissions Test*  
15 *(LSAT), launched a five-year effort in January 2001; to urge law*  
16 *schools to deemphasize numbers-based admissions policies and to*  
17 *broaden their admissions criteria; and*

18 *WHEREAS, By broadening the admissions criteria of the*  
19 *graduate programs and professional schools, and by prohibiting*  
20 *standardized test scores from being used as the sole criterion for*  
21 *consideration or as the primary criterion to end consideration of*  
22 *the applicant, the Regents of the University of California would*  
23 *assert that the University of California is committed to admitting*  
24 *and enrolling all students, and would assure underrepresented*  
25 *people of color that they are welcome and wanted; now, therefore,*  
26 *be it*

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
28 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California*  
29 *officially requests the Regents of the University of California to*  
30 *implement a comprehensive ~~review or a holistic~~ approach in the*  
31 *admissions processes to include a broad variety of academic and*  
32 *personal qualifications for their respective graduate programs and*  
33 *professional schools by the end of the 2002–03 academic year; and*  
34 *be it further*

35 *Resolved, That the Legislature requests that the comprehensive*  
36 *~~review or holistic~~ approach also include reviewing and revising the*  
37 *admissions policies of graduate programs and professional*  
38 *schools, ~~that~~ which claim to include some additional*  
39 *qualifications, to include an even broader variety of important*  
40 *qualifications; and be it further*



1 ~~Resolved, That the Legislature requests that the weight or value~~  
2 ~~placed on each of the important factors shall be reviewed and~~  
3 ~~revised, so that standardized test scores are not the overriding~~  
4 ~~criterion used to determine admissions; and be it further~~  
5 ~~qualifications, as is already done for the freshman admissions~~  
6 ~~process of the University of California; and be it further~~

7 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature requests that the*  
8 *comprehensive approach include reviewing and revising the*  
9 *weight or value placed on each of the important factors so that the*  
10 *standardized test scores are not the overriding criterion used to*  
11 *determine admissions; and be it further*

12 *Resolved, That the Legislature officially requests the regents to*  
13 *prohibit, before the end of the 2002–03 academic year,*  
14 *standardized test scores from being used as the sole criterion for*  
15 *consideration of the applicant for, or as the primary criterion to end*  
16 *consideration of the applicant for, admission to the university’s*  
17 *various graduate programs and professional schools; and be it*  
18 *further*

19 *Resolved, The Legislature requests that the regents describe*  
20 *those factors that are considered by each graduate program or*  
21 *professional school in making admissions decisions, and make*  
22 *those descriptions reasonably available to any interested person,*  
23 ~~including~~ *by publishing the description of the factors in each*  
24 *graduate program and professional schools’ ~~catalog~~ catalogue,*  
25 *and making the information available on their respective Internet*  
26 *Web sites; and be it further*

27 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy*  
28 *of this resolution to each member of the Regents of the University*  
29 *of California.*

