

**From:** Alex\_Stone@umit.maine.edu (Alex Stone)  
**Organization:** University of Maine  
**To:** articles@CollegeMarketPlace.com

Has Affirmative Action Worn out it's Welcome?

Are all men created equal? I believe they are. Man is indeed born free; it is society that corrupts him. Nature may make inequalities, but in a state of society this should be remedied. Man has thrown off the state of nature and put on a much better garment at least its form is good. Any inequalities created by nature ought to be provided for by society. Unfortunately, this is not the case. There are many elements in society that only makes an individual more unequal. This is wrong and should not exist.

In my eyes, it is rather obvious that Affirmative Action needs to be ended. As long as we have a sign on the Statue of Liberty inviting all to enter, we cannot make a judgment of these people based on race, religion or other ethnic reasons. As long as the Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal", we cannot make a judgment based on race, religion or other ethnic reasons. Affirmative Action is simply a way to give minorities more opportunities, based on the fact that they are minorities. This is making a judgment based on religion, race or other ethnic reasons.

I would like to think that we could be a colorblind nation, but I also know that for this to happen, we must do away with Affirmative Action. As long as there are laws that require our society to make judgments based on a minority status, we are invoking race-related judgments. This is the opposite of colorblindness. For colorblindness to happen in this nation, there needs to be no Affirmative Action, and people need to be properly educated. I think that when my generation is the majority of voters in this country, we will start to see these changes.

I mean, look at the gay rights movement and how far it has come in recent history. Not too long ago did the gay society decide to come out of the "closet", and now we're voting to give them rights in this society. It wasn't more than twenty years ago when homosexuality was frowned upon. Now the American society looks at it as an "alternative lifestyle". Sure, some people still think that homosexuals should all be killed and that heterosexuality is the only way for this society to be, but those select few are now the minority.

The philosophical premise of all equal opportunity programs is egalitarianism. Egalitarianism is the belief that all men are equal. If equality is held to any serious or rational standard, as in the realm of politics and law, egalitarianism is the principle of individual rights that cannot be repealed by democratic majority, subverted by minority machinations, nor infringed by government legislation. But political and legal equality is not the intent of equal opportunity programs. Equal opportunity programs seek nothing less than metaphysical equality; the equality of ability, competence, industriousness, and intelligence. Equal opportunity programs, by their very existence, defy the objective reality that all men are not equal. They seek to abolish some perceived "unfairness" that does not permit the inept, incompetent, lazy, or stupid to succeed.

Affirmative Action was a good thing when it first surfaced, but now it has gone too far. I believe that minorities never would have gotten as far as they have today and had the rights they now have, if it were not for Affirmative Action. Earlier I said that the gay rights movement has come a long way just recently. This is because of Affirmative Action. One person somewhere didn't get a job because he or she was

gay, and the fight was on. Minorities decided to speak out and then Affirmative Action was on its way to being a prominent thing in the American workplace. It gave minorities the chance to succeed in places they normally would have been rejected from based on their race or ethnic background. It gave them an opportunity to be "someone", a chance to give their kids and families a good life. But now Affirmative Action has worn out its welcome. It has become a reason for people to believe they have not been employed or discriminated against. Affirmative Action is just a way for people to sue others and get thousands and millions of dollars because they feel they have been discriminated against. This is a part of Affirmative Action that I do not agree with. Affirmative Action provides too much leverage for people who have been discriminated against. Even if they haven't been discriminated against, they can believe they have been and Affirmative Action becomes their pry bar to get money out of people. This drives the insurance rates up for those of us that are honest and get jobs based on our qualifications only. It drives fear into the hearts of employers when they interview someone, who happens to be a minority, because they are afraid of being sued. For this reason, I believe that Affirmative Action needs to go.

Someone being accepted into college or being employed simply because there is a quota that has to be filled is wrong. This must make a person feel worthless when they know they got the job because they were part of a quota that had to be filled. It would make me feel like, "Oh yeah, I got the job because they need to fill a quota. They probably don't even know what my credentials are!" This would bother me to no end. I would hate to think that someone would think of me differently because of what I am. I want people to base their judgments on who I am and not because they are afraid of what might happen if they don't accept me. I am who I am. I am an individual, someone who has his own set of credentials. I would rather have a job interview over the phone where the employer could not see me and make judgments. I would rather have that person talk to me and think, "Wow, this guy is really qualified!" That would make me feel much better about today's society.

I think that Affirmative Action has worn out its welcome and needs to be done away with. I am, however, not against everyone having equal rights. I think everyone deserves a chance to succeed in society, and that we need to get past the Civil Rights Era. The time has come for us to be able to judge someone based on who they are, not what they are. After all, we do have a plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty that states, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door." As long as we display this plaque in New York Harbor, the immigrant capitol of the United States of America, we cannot make judgments based on what people are or where they come from. We are giving them an equal opportunity to succeed in America. Minorities have been given their rights also somewhat equal rights. This is why Affirmative Action is no longer needed. I think it should be done away with.

Furthermore, it was stated by our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence, the following: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life liberty and the pursuit of happiness." If our founding fathers knew this, then we should most definitely take notice. Many people throughout our nation's great history have taken note to the fact that all men are created equal. Abraham Lincoln stated it in his Gettysburg Address, and Thomas Jefferson stated it also. Martin Luther King believed it, and so did Malcolm X, two of the most prominent figures in the Civil Rights movement. If all of these figures that founded and structured our nation can believe it, and abide by it, then why can't

we? Do we really need laws telling us how to judge people? I don't think so. We should make our own decisions and we should be able to make these based on our historical background.

In closing, I believe that Affirmative Action should be done away with. With it, the beliefs of the criminal justice system, and not our own beliefs bind us. If society just took a moment to stop and look at what great things many people from minority groups have done for our country, we would feel much different towards them. I think that my generation is starting to do this, and that our nation is taking a step in the right direction. And I feel that there is a giant leap for mankind not far away.