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Latino Policy Forum Responds to SCOTUS Decision on Affirmative Action

Today, in two decisions (SSFA v. UNC and SSFA v. Harvard), the [United States Supreme Court effectively dismantled affirmative action in college and university admissions decisions](#). The Latino Policy Forum decries these decisions.

These decisions have the potential to impact college access for Latino students dramatically, something we can ill afford in a knowledge-based economy in which [Latinos have the lowest levels of college completion among racial and ethnic groups](#).

Geographic considerations for admission and legacy admissions appear legally intact and available to those who can access them. Why racial and ethnic considerations are precluded from playing such a role is a significant and aggravating question for those concerned with equity in education.

The Court's action has the immediate impact of demolishing an avenue of ensuring that college students reflect the demographic mosaic of the United States. This demolition creates yet another structural impediment standing in the way of individuals from historically marginalized groups gaining access to public and private colleges and universities, but especially disheartening is what is likely to happen to Latinos in the game of college admissions.

With this action by the Supreme Court, Latinos, one of the country's youngest and fastest-growing demographics, with [recent growth](#) in college attendance but still, relatively low rates of college admission and completion, are likely to see their admission numbers decrease.

While colleges and universities cannot erase the impact of the Court's decisions, one way to ensure some enhanced equity in admissions for Latinos and other marginalized groups is for colleges and universities to significantly expand their commitment and resources to and outreach efforts in, recruiting first-generation college students, low-income students, immigrants, and students whose primary language is not English.

These decisions are profoundly regrettable, and it is now incumbent on colleges and universities to structure admissions procedures in such a way as to legally ensure that student bodies reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the nation.