

September 21, 2015

Catherine Lhamon
Assistant Secretary,
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Lhamon:

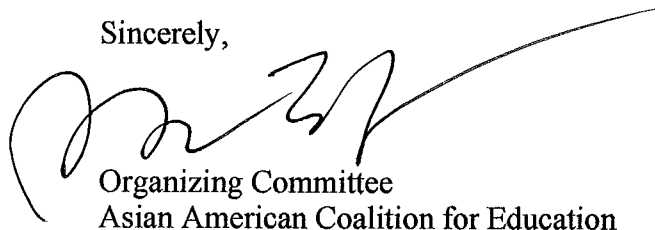
We are writing to you regarding a complaint filed with your office by an Asian American father against Harvard University (mailed out on September 3, 2015). According to the father, his son is truly an outstanding student on every aspect. Not only did he excel academically, but he had also done a lot of community services, great on sports, as well as winning several national competitions in Economics and Rocketry. Yet he was still unfairly rejected by Harvard due to his Asian race. Among his graduating class of a Floridian high school, all top 4 are Asian but none of them got accepted by elite universities. At the same time, five students of other races, though ranked lower, were accepted by Ivy Leagues Universities.

This is the second case filed by Asian American families since last month. We are outraged by such blatant discrimination against this outstanding Asian-American applicant. His case reminds us again that such discriminatory admissions' practices are widespread, happening in many states of the nation. It is un-American for Ivy Leagues Universities to accept less qualified applicants and, at the same time, reject top students from the same high school simply because those Asian American students were born with the *wrong race*. We strongly request your office to review this complaint with full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations, and request your office to take immediate actions you deem necessary to protect him, and any other Asian-Americans, against any infringements on his constitutional rights; including urge Harvard University to reconsider their decisions.

The discrimination alleged by the complaint is indefensible, improper, and immoral. In the absence of any meaningful enforcement actions taken by the U.S. Government, Ivy League universities and many other American universities will keep on violating the civil rights of Asian-American applicants on a continuous and systematic basis. We urge your office to take immediate action to provide equal protection to Asian American students!

We look forward to hear from you!

Sincerely,



Organizing Committee
Asian American Coalition for Education