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May 31, 2019

Mr. David Coleman
Chief Executive Officer, The College Board
The College Board National Office
250 Vesey Street
New York, NY 10281

Dear Mr. Coleman,

On behalf of the Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE), an alliance of over 200 Asian-American organizations dedicated to advance the cause of equal education rights, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your organization's ill-conceived "Adversity Index" system and halt its impetuous expansion of "the S.A.T. Adversity Score" to 150 more colleges nationwide.

As an organization that advocates for the use of economic preferences to replace the discriminatory racial preferences, AACE candidly supports the benign direction of constructing and applying a system of "Adversity Score" in place of racial preferences, under scientific, reasonable and transparent yardsticks. Nevertheless, we believe that the College Board's plan to broaden the adversity index system is imprudent and shall be suspended based on the following reasons:

1. The public, including the Asian-American community, has a right to prior consultation on such a matter of public importance: College Board must present sufficient evidence to show that the Adversity Score is formulated scientifically and fairly before carrying out the expansion plan. AACE would like to review your methodology and to request the College Board make the process transparent.
2. The Adversity Score should not be used on top of, or in combination with, racial preferences which have been widely implemented in colleges across 42 states. The coupling of these two factors will lead to disastrous consequences for millions of working-class Asian other American families. Most of these families endure tremendous hardships and make great sacrifices so that they can move to good school districts and send their kids to good schools. Without any privileged background, these families practice the principles of resilience, financial prudence, family responsibilities, and hard-work. If implemented, the Adversity

Score will surely punish their children, who have already been harmed by racial preferences in college admissions.

3. The Adversity Score, if established scientifically, should only be applied to a limited population to help children from truly disadvantaged families with inadequate funds or conditions to support their K-12 education. It should not be applied to the general population for utopian social engineering control. The Adversity Score can also be easily manipulated and gamed by people who intentionally change addresses.

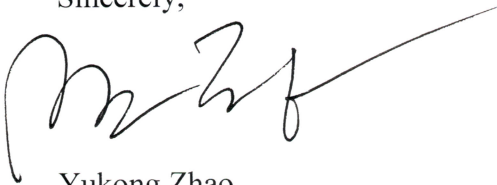
Education is an indispensable part of the American Dream, that every U.S. citizen should have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination and initiative. As stated in your mission statement, the College Board helps students prepare for “a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success”. The SAT, a crucial part of your offerings, is a standardized test designed to measure a student’s academic aptitude in relevant subjects. Your organization’s role in propelling the educational part of the American Dream should be to provide a fair and objective measurement of each applicant’s college readiness regardless of one’s extrinsic circumstances such as his or her zip code.

While we support initiatives to help the truly disadvantaged children, we strongly oppose the College Board’s irresponsible and precipitous attempt to use the Adversity Score as a tool of social engineering to NORMALIZE every American child’s future. We also reject your opaque process that does not allow the students and their families to review their adversity scores.

We Asian Americans have high stakes in the future and direction of college admissions. As such, AACE earnestly requests a meeting with your organizations to conduct a thorough review of the methodology and roll-out process of your “Adversity Score” system. In the meantime, we also urge you to refrain from prematurely promoting it on a large scale until sufficient and informed consent by Asian-American communities is obtained.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yukong Zhao', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Yukong Zhao
President
Asian American Coalition for Education
<http://asianamericanforeducation.org/en/home/>