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December 10, 2019

Mr. Kenneth L. Marcus
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
The U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW,
Washington, DC, 20202, USA

Dear Honorable Assistant Secretary Marcus,

I am writing to you to support a recent complaint submitted to your office by a concerned parent from Montgomery County, Maryland (Case No. 03-20-1019). This complaint was filed as an addition/extension to the class action case of institutionalized anti-Asian discrimination within the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) (Case No. 03-18-1205). As a key national non-profit organization advancing equal education rights, the Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE) encourages you to incorporate the new evidence disclosed by this individual complaint in Office for Civil Rights (OCR)'s investigation into Case No. 03-18-1205.

In his complaint on behalf of his 8th grade son, the petitioner Mr. Aaron Rosenzweig details disastrous effects of MCPS's race-conscious reforms on its magnet programs, while shedding light on broader, institutionalized racism in MCPS. To summarize:

1. **The use of racial quotas in the selection process of Takoma Park Middle School**, consistent with 03-18-1205's claims: the student was denied entry into Takoma Park in spite of: a) being in the elementary magnet program; b) having performed top of his class; and c) having maintained excellent scores. The student is habitually bored in his feeder middle school.
2. **Additional Practices of anti-Asian discrimination in the feeder middle school** (Robert Frost) demonstrating far-reaching implications of widespread racism: the student is one of over 20 Asian students who were restricted access to full periods of instruction (60% reduction at first then later 20% reduction). The situation holds true for most Asian-American students in MCPS where they are routinely denied placement tests for advanced classes, hurt disproportionately by a detrimental rotating schedule, and refused teachers' recommendations to advance. Instead, many are forced to assist in administrative tasks such as shredding papers to inflate their time at school. MCPS

counselors engage in ill-conceived advice for Asian students to refrain from pursuing challenging courses.

The AACE has [expressed](#) immense gratitude to the OCR for starting an investigation into MCPS in March 2019. We believe that Mr. Rosenzweig's recent complaint exemplifies profound civil right issues as a manifestation and outgrowth of the original problems exposed by Case No. 03-18-2015. MCPS once embraced one of the country's most intellectually competitive programs, but its administrators have opted for counterproductive race-conscious practices and used education as political weapons. Not only do these practices pacify and even reward subpar school performances, they also greatly de-incentivize hardworking Asian-American students from achieving highly. The OCR must consider the full context and magnitude of such issues when enforcing the Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Thanks for your attention and your help to Asian American community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yukong Zhao', with a stylized, cursive script.

Yukong Zhao

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