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STATEMENT: Illinois Latino Agenda Advocates Disappointed in SCOTUS Affirmative Action Decision, Call for Continued Commitment to Diversity

CHICAGO - The following is a statement from the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), a coalition that works to advance the wellbeing of Latinos throughout Illinois, in response to the SCOTUS's decision to block the use of affirmative action in college admissions:

"Affirmative action has its roots in the fight for civil rights and its impact on advancing opportunities for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities has been monumental. It is because of affirmative action that countless Latino students, including Illinois Latino Agenda members, were able to access quality education and pursue meaningful careers.

"Thanks to affirmative action, institutions of higher education were encouraged to take a more inclusive approach to admissions by increasing their recruitment efforts and becoming better informed about the systemic challenges and roadblocks students of color often face that impact their academic outcomes.

"While we mourn SCOTUS's rejection of affirmative action practices in college admissions, we hope and encourage colleges and universities to continue upholding the values of inclusivity and diversity that affirmative action has promoted for more than 50 years."

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