



## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

# NEWS

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Contact: Chetly Zarko  
734-730-4842

### MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE WILL END COLLEGE ADMISSIONS' DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

According to *USA Today* (12/3/2004) “ ... three out of every four *private colleges* ... privately practice *affirmative action for boys, favoring them over girls* in admissions to get near balance.” [Emphasis added.] The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) Constitutional Amendment will, when approved, end such discrimination against women in public education, public hiring, and public contracting.

According to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Education, this separation arises because women and girls are now vastly outperforming men and boys in key academic measures from elementary schools to university admission and graduation rates. The study shows a widening ‘achievement gap,’ with boys under-performing girls by large margins.

The *Washington Times* (11/23/2004) reported that the Department of Education study found that:

- The reading achievement gap favoring females grew from 10 points in 1992 to 16 points in 2002.
- Females entering college were more likely than their male peers to graduate in six years.
- In 2001, the overall participation rate of females in adult education was higher than that of their male peers by a 53 percent to 46 percent margin.

Despite these trends, opponents to the MCRI assert the proposal to end race and gender preferences will somehow “damage” women. These same groups claim women have “benefited most” from such programs. This again shows that the rationale for continuing preferences for select groups is rarely based on data and facts.

Ward Connerly, Chairman of American Civil Rights Coalition, stated, “As a man, I

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understand that receiving a preference does nothing fundamental to prepare boys or young men for future success. The irony is that I've understood this principle in relation to my own skin color long before there was a 'male achievement gap.' The same principles that should apply to race should also apply to gender, that is, a color-blind, gender-blind achievement-based standard. The decision should be based on what someone achieves, not on what they happen to be born. The only real solution is for leaders to step up and fix the problems in K-12 education. After-the-fact preferences only hide problems with the artificial solution of 'diversity.'"

"Gender preferences, to men or women, harm everyone by distorting the way families and societies are structured," said Jennifer Gratz, Executive Director of the MCRI Committee. "Just as I would never consider giving a future granddaughter a preference over a grandson, or have any desire to personally receive a preference over my brother, government should never use gender as a reason to give special treatment. Not only are such preferences wrong, they are fundamentally destructive to the family and to relationships between women and men."

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee (MCRI), a Michigan-based Ballot Question Committee, is dedicated to giving the people of Michigan the opportunity to end preferential treatment based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin by State or local governments. MCRI will make Michigan a place of equal opportunity for all, not a State that uses discrimination as a tool to create "diversity." Achieving "diversity" and "affirmative action" should never be an excuse to discriminate!

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