

National Association of Scholars Argument for the Arizona Civil Rights Initiative

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." So proclaims the Declaration of Independence, America's founding statement of ideals. Although we would now say "men and women", there is nothing in these words that could be otherwise improved upon. No principle comes closer to the heart of what America means, or has contributed more to our national success.

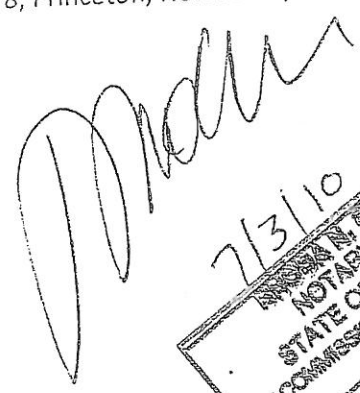
A YES vote on Proposition XXX is simply a reaffirmation of this basic ideal. It gives to every Arizonan assurance that he or she will be judged solely by virtue of achievement and character, not color, ancestry, or sex. In so doing, it will spur all to do their best. It will also prevent politicians and bureaucrats from pitting group against group, doling out favors to some and withholding them from others. Social harmony depends on all individuals believing their rights are held in common, not bestowed on the basis of the accidents of birth.

The National Association of Scholars believes that equal treatment is especially crucial in higher education. A college degree only has value when it is perceived as having been fairly earned. Moreover, it is as students that our young men and women come to full knowledge of America's heritage of rights and freedoms. By making higher education a color- and gender-coded experience, this comprehension is undermined.

America's fundamental ideals get renewed each generation through education. Vote YES on Proposition XXX to ensure that they are renewed intact.

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