

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASPPH Statement on SCOTUS Decision on Race in Higher Education Admissions

June 29, 2023 – As the leading voice of academic public health, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is deeply concerned by the US Supreme Court’s decision to ban the consideration of race or ethnicity in applications for institutions of higher education. A considerable amount of scientific evidence collected over several years shows that diversity across health professions can reduce gaps in health inequity and save lives.¹ The Court’s decision will drastically reduce enrollment of certain racial and ethnic groups within the health professions and negatively impact public health.

ASPPH champions the development of a diverse and exceptional public health workforce and values social justice, equity, and health for all. Consistent with our ongoing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DEIJ) **initiatives**, we strive to create an equitable and inclusive community that respects everyone. It is part of our mission to stand up against discrimination in all forms. The Court’s decision reverses decades of precedent and will set the nation’s public health and healthcare systems backward.

Last summer, ASPPH joined **45 health professional and educational organizations** in an **amicus curiae brief** to the US Supreme Court. The brief was in support of the limited consideration of an applicant’s racial or ethnic background or experiences in higher education admissions in two cases before the Supreme Court. While ASPPH will work with members to comply with the new ruling, we will also continue our commitment to advocate for inclusion in academic public health.

¹ Marcella Alsan et al., Does Diversity Matter for Health? Experimental Evidence from Oakland, 109 Am. Econ. Rev. 4071, 4074-75 (2019)

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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