
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Tom and Jarrett

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Legacy preferences in college admissions are benefits
9 given to alumni children based not on merit, but on the identity,
10 status, or accomplishments of their parents; and

11 WHEREAS, Inherited preferences for publicly available goods
12 infringe upon fundamental American values and are appropriate only in
13 status-based feudal societies; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded on equality and
15 a commitment to social and economic mobility based on talent and merit;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The legacy preferences in college admissions offend the
18 American egalitarian tradition and should be neither tolerated nor
19 enabled;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that no federal
2 moneys, grants, student aid, or other financial benefits accrue to
3 colleges or universities that use legacy preferences in their
4 admissions decisions.

5 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
6 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
7 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of
9 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of
10 Education.

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