



## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

# NEWS

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### **SOME WOMEN'S GROUPS SHOW INCONSISTENCY ON RACE/GENDER PREFERENCES ISSUE, MCRI**

Recently, a few women's groups have announced the inauguration of a two-year campaign to preserve gender preferences in Michigan by opposing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI). This is unfortunate. Nonetheless, MCRI leaders believe that within this issue lies the real strength of this campaign. We will ensure that the people of Michigan are truly informed about the reasons for these groups' opposition to MCRI.

Not many thoughtful, caring mothers would care to discriminate in favor of their daughters at the expense of their sons. Not many women want their partners to be held back simply to ensure that quotas survive in fire and police departments, with building contracts, or in faculty hiring. The groups allegedly representing the best interest of women refuse to comment on the destructive effects of preferences that attempt to pit the interests of wives against husbands and brothers against sisters.

The painful truth is that taxpayers pay a huge price for race and gender preferences. Why do these groups object to the principle of accepting low bids? The reason is often clear: many of them are "fronts" for male-owned contractors. At the same time some of these groups are opposing MCRI, they provide the skirts behind which shady male contractors can hide. Recent stories in the media have revealed that building contractors are putting businesses in the names of their wives as false fronts to both avoid the negative consequences of preferences and to take some of the unfair competitive advantages that preferences create. MCRI opposes both the men and women engaged in this practice. Taxpayers are the real loser when an artificial façade of diversity is placed above either quality or price in the bidding process.

Women don't need gender preferences. In the aftermath of the elimination of race and gender preferences in California, the law school at the UC Boalt Hall is 55% female. No

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preferences were given to reach that goal. In fact, women are outperforming men to such an extent in admission to colleges that some universities are considering preferences for men to maintain the correct "balance." The beauty and consistency of MCRI's proposal is that it works both ways - it protects women against the gender preferences that academic social engineers are indeed considering to implement in favor of men. The same is true with race preferences - what a government institution or state university "gives" today it can always turn around and take away tomorrow. MCRI sets up a rock solid foundation of consistency for the future.

Finally, according to Ward Connerly, "If groups claiming to represent the interests of women wanted to be consistent, they would have rushed to the defense of the many women who have suffered from the arbitrary hand of race preference. Unfortunately, race always trumps gender, when identities are applied by social engineers. Among the thousands of women discriminated against on a daily basis, Barbara Grutter and Jennifer Gratz and Katuria Smith and Cheryl Hopwood will all attest that their womanhood provided little inoculation from the foul odor of discrimination when they applied for college admission." Jennifer Gratz, Executive Director of MCRI, concluded by noting, "As a woman, I'm offended that anyone thinks that I need a preference to compete and I have a different message: Women can and have competed without preferences and women deserve the respect of only being offered a job, a promotion, a contract, etc. because she is the best person for the position. As an individual, that also happens to be female, I ask that all women, and all men, stand up in support of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and demand only a fair chance - an equal opportunity - and let merit, character and individual accomplishment, regardless of race or gender, do the rest."

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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