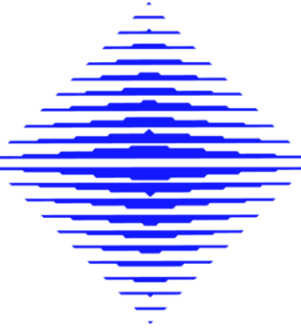


PRECISION

RESEARCH



Trump admin overturns Obama policy to encourage racial diversity in schools, colleges

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Having Obama guidelines on the books that support the use of race to diversify campuses when the Trump administration feels differently would be awkward, he said.

And attorney general Sessions has made his distaste for affirmative action manifest, vowing to bring lawsuits against any universities that adopt admissions policies that unduly advantage African-American applicants.

While the decision does not change current United States law on affirmative action, it provides a strong illustration of the administration's position on an issue that could take on renewed attention with the departure of Justice Anthony Kennedy from the Supreme Court.

"It's so much harder to get into Harvard and other selective institutions if you are Asian than if you are white - which is much harder if you are Hispanic or black", Ilya Shapiro with the Cato Institute said.

The policy represents the official view of the federal government and schools that do not follow it could face action from the Justice Department or lose federal funding, it said.

In addition, Harvard University's use of race in admissions has come under scrutiny in a federal lawsuit that alleges the school has discriminated against Asian Americans. Most were from the Obama era.

Six pieces of guidance related to affirmative action issued between 2011 and 2016 were among 24 nullified on Tuesday by attorney general Jeff Sessions, who said they were "unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law, or otherwise improper".

A group of Asian-Americans on Wednesday welcomed the Trump Administration's move to rescind the Obama-era policy guidelines which encouraged schools, colleges and institutes of higher education to use race and ethnicity as a factor in the admissions. Instead, universities have been directed to be "race neutral" in the application process.

The new Trump policies are "good news", Clegg told Breitbart News in an interview June 3.

The Trump administration's Justice Department had already signaled concern about the use of race in admissions decisions.

Still, the rescinding of the Obama guidelines could have a chilling effect on some universities as they consider the makeup of incoming freshman classes, advocates of affirmative action said.

The action comes amid a high-profile court fight over Harvard University admissions that has attracted the government's attention, as well as Supreme Court turnover expected to produce a more critical eye toward schools' race-conscious admissions policies.

None of the three directives have any legal bearing on what colleges and universities may or may not choose to do with regards to affirmative action in admissions. His departure means that we don't know how this court is going to rule on these kinds of issues. The US Supreme Court has upheld the use of race as a factor in admissions policies, as long as colleges can show that other methods alone cannot achieve diversity.

As Peter Wood said at the time, the guidance documents "seem to sanction common university practices which circumvent the law".

Despite the administration's skepticism of race-based policies, Kleinman said she has seen no less cooperation from the Justice Department in active desegregation cases.