



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO **RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS**

Dear Educator:

The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights (NCRCR) seeks your assistance distributing our essay and quote contest to students. The topic is, "Why is diversity important in our public schools?" Enclosed with this letter please find the contest guidelines and information on how students can send in their entries. Submissions for this contest are due by March 30, 2007.

On December 4, 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on two critical cases that could limit the ability of communities to promote racially and ethnically diverse local schools and avoid racial segregation. In cases from Seattle, Washington, and Louisville, Kentucky, the Court is considering whether voluntary integration efforts by these school districts are consistent with their interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The Court's rulings in these cases may have far-reaching implications for the future of our nation's schools.

As our history books teach, these cases mark a turning point in the nation's response to the Court's unanimous 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that "separate but equal" has no place in the field of public education. Indeed, the nation has struggled to realize *Brown's* vision of inclusive, integrated, high-quality schools, and the nation's public schools are now more segregated than they were in 1970.

When the Court rules on these cases this term, it has an opportunity either to allow local communities to retain the ability to preserve some measure of racial integration in public schools, or to end the era of *Brown*.

The Court will issue a decision on these cases before July 2007.

NCRCR strongly believes that diversity is important for our schools. We are interested in hearing from America's youth about their opinions.

Students under the age of twelve can participate in our quote contest, by submitting their own brief answer to the question, "Why is diversity important in our public schools?"

Students ages twelve through seventeen can participate in our essay writing contest, answering the question, in a longer essay.

Again, we appreciate your support and assistance in distributing this essay and quote contest to students.

Many thanks,

The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights

About NCRCR: The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights (NCRCR) is a national collaboration of concerned individuals, lawyers, academics, students, and community activists who have joined together in response to recent federal court decisions that are eroding civil rights protections. The Campaign works to link individuals and groups from the many communities affected by the rollback of civil rights in the courts including people and groups interested in women's rights, racial justice, disability rights, environmental justice, language rights, and worker's rights, among others. Recognizing how little information about the rollback of civil rights is reaching people across the country; NCRCR is focusing on public education and outreach, finding ways to get the message out about the impact of court rulings on our neighborhoods, our schools, our opportunities and our rights. NCRCR also organizes conferences and forums for groups and individuals fighting the rollback so that they may strategize and share information.