



## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO **RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **National Campaign Keeps MLK's Dream Alive; Writing Contest Asks Students About the Importance of Diversity in Public Schools as Supreme Court Weighs Issue**

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Today, during a week when Americans honor and remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights (NCRCR) announced a national essay and quote contest for students about diversity in public schools, even as the Supreme Court ponders cases that could overturn or curtail historical advancements to promote diversity.

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

**Students ages twelve to seventeen** can participate by answering the same question. Students can send in submissions beginning today and all entries are due by March 30, 2007. Winners will be announced by April 16, 2007. First place winners in each category will be awarded cash prizes and finalist will receive gift certificates. Quotes and essays will be judged for originality, understanding of the issue, clarity and style. (More details on the quote and essay contest rules, prizes, and submission details are available at [www.rollbackcampaign.org](http://www.rollbackcampaign.org) .)

"We created this contest because, just this past December, the US Supreme Court heard arguments on two cases that could limit the ability of communities to promote racial and ethnic diversity in local schools and to avoid racial segregation. The 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" said Cristóbal Joshua Alex, Campaign Coordinator for NCRCR. "An adverse ruling in these two cases would be an incredible blow not just to our public education system, but to the civil rights movement, and could wipe out decades of progress. Many of us do not recognize the potential implications of these cases on our society. But our young people are incredibly cognizant of their environments, and we want to hear from students why they feel diversity is important in schools." Alex added.

The Court's decision in these cases will be announced any time before July, 2007.

Check the Campaign's website: [www.rollbackcampaign.org](http://www.rollbackcampaign.org) for updates on the contest, the cases and other information.