



Eric Deaton, U.S. Senate

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Affirmative Action

The practice of affirmative action began in the 1960s by the U.S. government in order to combat the previously systematic discrimination of the African American race. It has since grown to encompass the promotion of multiple minority races and women in the workforce. After nearly three generations of federal, state and local government use of these policies, many minority races and women have broken the invisible ceilings in the private and government sectors.

It was all started in the noble effort to eliminate the injustices perpetrated on individuals through discriminatory policies that kept their races in lower paying jobs and social classes. It is true that the discrimination was allowed to persist long after it should have been eliminated through federal law based on sound Constitutional assurances. Unfortunately, after nearly fifty years of these policies, the practices have become too "politically correct." The private sector now uses similar quota systems in many cases and it is taboo to even question the practices in private or government arenas.

With the affected groups now made "whole" with more examples than can be listed here, isn't it time these practices are brought to an end? Isn't the best system of hiring a merit-based system with the most qualified applicant(s) being the winners? Who can question the success of these very policies when we have an African American president, two consecutive female Secretaries of State, a Hispanic Supreme Court Justice and numerous Fortune 500 Company CEOs whom are women and minorities? The current position of these very leaders and a multitude of laws will ensure that the discriminatory practices of the past will not rear its ugly head again.

So what we are left with is a system, which now causes more reverse discrimination than ever? Many times the best-qualified applicants for jobs are passed over to the perceived minorities being given preferences simply due to their race or gender. This is by no means the best way to run a business. Most business owners would prefer to always hire the most talented and qualified applicants available to make their companies more productive and profitable in the end. The same results apply to government work even more so, since it is funded with taxpayer dollars. I call for an end to all affirmative action policies at all levels of government. In addition to this, a thorough review of anti-discrimination policies should be made to ensure that they are comprehensive and protect the Constitutional rights of all citizens of the U.S.A.

As Americans we should all respect the diversity of our culture, the gifts brought to the country by different races and the strength this provides us as a nation. Let us all aspire to do our best, work together for a common good and to respect each other at all times.

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