

Subject: Resolution No. 35-13A2

**In Opposition to the Ward Connerly's "CRENO" Initiative on
the Next California State Ballot**

Commissioners Eric Mar, Emilio B. Cruz, Mark Sanchez, Eddie Y. Chin, Dan Kelly,
Sarah Lipson, Jill Wynns and Student Delegates, Karissa Yee and Najwa Ahmed

WHEREAS: UC Regent Ward Connerly and the so-called 'American Civil Rights Coalition' are sponsoring the "Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color or National Origin [CRENO] Initiative 1" for the next California State ballot. If approved, this state constitutional amendment would bar governmental agencies like school districts from collecting data with regard to ethnicity, race and national origin in the State of California; 2 and

WHEREAS: The CRENO initiative is a divisive measure that is a grave threat to the education, health and equal protection of all Californians; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco Unified School District actively collects and tracks racial, ethnic, language and national origin data in order to administer local, state and federally mandated programs and to ensure equity for all our students; and

WHEREAS: Passage of this initiative would cripple the District's ongoing efforts to ensure racial and economic justice in our public schools; and

WHEREAS: A broad statewide coalition of community-based, education, health care, and civil rights organizations has united in opposition to the initiative 3; and

WHEREAS: At a public hearing on the initiative held by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission in September 2002, speakers emphasized that San Francisco schools need accurate information in order to address the wide achievement and opportunity gaps and that passage of the initiative would greatly harm the health and well-being of our state's children and youth; and

WHEREAS: Despite the huge potential harm of the impending initiative, District staff have requested that the full Board adopt a resolution directing staff to provide sufficient analysis of the potential impact of the passage of the measure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District strongly opposes the CRENO Initiative; and

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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education requests the Superintendent to conduct a study on the initiative's impact on SFUSD programs within three (3) months of the passage of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education requests the Superintendent to develop a plan to disseminate information to policy makers and the public about the San Francisco Unified School District's use of racial, ethnic and national origin data to monitor and support student achievement; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education requests the Executive Assistant to the Board to send a letter with a copy of this resolution to the top twenty (20) largest school districts in California.

Footnotes:

1. The CRENO Initiative was formerly known as the "Racial Privacy Initiative".
2. Paragraph (B) of the initiative reads: "The state shall not classify any individual by race, ethnicity, color or national origin in the operation of any other state operations unless the legislature specifically identifies that said classification fulfills a compelling state interest, and approves said classification by a 2/3 majority in both houses of the legislature, and is subsequently approved by the governor."
3. The broad coalition against the CRENO initiative includes: ACLE of Northern California, Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Bar Association of SF, Books not Bars, California Coalition for Civil Rights, California Faculty Association, California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative, California Teachers Association (CTA), Californians for Justice, Center for Commercial-Free Public Education, Chinese Progressive Association, Clean Water Action, Common Cause, C-Beyond: Youth Making History, Center for Commercial-Free Public Education, Center for Third World Organizing, Education Trust West (Ed Trust West), Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Equal Rights Advocates, Greenlining Institute, Healthy Children Organizing Project, Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Intergroup Clearing House, Justice Matters Institute, La Clinica de la Raza, La Raza Centro Legal, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR), League of Women Voters of California, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), Multicultural Education Training and Advocacy, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), National Coalition for Education Activists, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRCD), Organization of Chinese Americans, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Progressive Jewish Alliance, PUEBLO, Sierra Club, Underground Railroad, and the Youth Empowerment Center (to name a few).

5/13/03

6/10/03

Please Note:

- Referred to the Rules, Policy, and Legislation Committee by order of the Chair on 5/13/03.
- Taken up by the Rules Committee on 6/4/03. Consensus of the Committee to recommend approval by the Board of Education.
- Adopted, as amended, on June 10, 2003.