Affirmative Action: Schuette v. Coalition
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What is Affirmative Action?
Affirmative Action is the policy of favoring members of a disadvantaged group who are perceived to suffer from discrimination within a culture. The term “Affirmative Action” was first mentioned in 1961 by John F. Kennedy as a method of redressing discrimination that had continued even after enforcement of civil rights laws. It was enacted and enforced by Lyndon Johnson to get to the next stage of the battle for civil rights. It was used to “level the playing field,” ensuring that African-Americans and other minorities had the same benefits most white Americans had access to. This generally focused on education and job opportunities. Flaws and problems in the policy arose during the late 1970s; however, it became a subject of controversy after a white male was rejected from a medical school that accepted less-qualified minorities. Causing an uproar and backlash for Affirmative Action is in effect. The graph on the right represents the admission process.

Consequences of the Court’s Decision in Schuette v. Coalition
Within the past couple of years, it became evident that those who were not minorities were affected by the university’s admission process. The banning of Affirmative Action reversed this statement. The enrollment of Hispanics and African-Americans have decreased. Minorities are greatly affected by this because they are discouraged. An increase in dropout rates of minorities is another consequence. Many of those considered a minority will most likely not go further than high school which has a great effect on their career ambitions. Minorities will feel intimidated or not worthy because of rejection causing them to lose hope and not move on to higher education. The banning of Affirmative Action also shows that lower academic standards decreases both academic performance and grades. The graph above presents a drop in enrollment of the minorities on campus while the banning of Affirmative Action is in effect. The graph on the right represents the college readiness by race. It is evident that the minorities are low in percentages, discouraging them to aim higher.

Majority:
With a majority of 6-2, Affirmative Action has been banned in the state of Michigan since April 22, 2014. Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Kennedy, Justice Alito, Justice Scalia, Justice Thomas, and Justice Breyer were the majority that voted in this decision. Chief Justice Roberts’ concurring opinion was that having racial preferences will cause more racial recognition which will do more harm than good. Equal treatment under the law is more important than the efforts of diversifying a school.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s Dissent
Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s blistering dissent on Affirmative Action showed how she and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg disagreed with the University of Michigan case, and how Affirmative Action being banned would affect thousands of minority groups and their admission to the university. Justice Sotomayor starts off very strong because, even in the fifth of 58 pages of her opposing dissent, she states, “It would be demeaning to the democratic process, the plurality concludes, to disturb that decision in any way. This logic embraces majority rule without an important constitutional limit.” She makes this argument because she wants to guarantee equal protection of the laws for all and equal participation of self-government. She then states in multiple sections the different court cases that have dealt with the minority group, African Americans, whom were suppressed heavily both out in the open and discreetly, with different tactics being used in both fields.

References:
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