**Public Testimony in front of the UC Board of Regents**

**January 21, 2021**

**Wenyuan Wu**

Good morning and I appreciate this opportunity to address the Board of Regents. This is Wenyuan Wu with Californians for Equal Rights, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and raising public awareness on the principles of equality and merit. We strongly oppose the new proposal for UC to go permanently test-optional for three main reasons. 1. It’s a politicized and futile attempt to masquerade achievement gaps. In California’s public K-12 education, achievement gaps have persisted. Phasing out standardized testing does nothing to address these structural issues.

Second, it compromises the merit-based principle embraced by most Americans. To be bluntly honest, this is putting the cart before the horse.

Last but not least, the primary purpose of higher education should not be to institute social engineering, but to prepare our students to be globally competitive. A more dangerous gap than our racial achievement gap exists between the average American student and the average students in many other industrial nations. We have to raise the American average and close the gap between our achievement and our potential. Achievement matters.

Thank you again for hearing my comments!