The Supreme Court ruled to eliminate the use of affirmative action in higher education admissions, deeming it unconstitutional. This has been a delicate issue of debate in recent years, with state-by-state differentials in the restriction of affirmative action in their admissions policies. California, for instance, already has a prohibition on race-conscious admissions in state-sponsored universities that has been in place since 1996. The new ruling by the Supreme Court will now additionally restrict the use of affirmative action as a determining factor for private universities, such as USC.

Our school remains strongly committed to the principles of equality and social justice, which includes providing an equal opportunity to education. We stand with President Folt and the commitment of USC as a whole to continue to create “a campus that is welcoming, diverse, and inclusive to talented individuals from every background.”

In her dissent, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a self-professed beneficiary of race-sensitive admissions policies, stated that “equal education opportunity is a prerequisite to achieving racial equality in our nation.” The USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work is proud of our diversity in admissions, with 63% of our student body being Latinx, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American across all four of our degree programs.

We will continue to uphold the ethics and values of the social work and nursing professions, and provide high-quality educational opportunities for all who aspire to pursue an advanced degree.

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Interim Dean