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"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

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OPINION: Supreme Court Denies Realities of Racial Bias

By Honorable **Sandré R. Swanson**

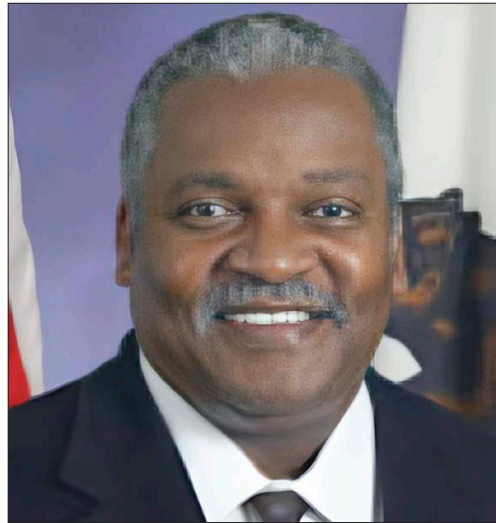
The Supreme Court's assault on affirmative action in college admissions is proving once again that it is an "Activist Court."

This ruling is a twisted and nonsensical interpretation of the equal protection clause under the 14th Amendment. The court's so-called "color-blind" action is a blatant refusal to acknowledge that racial bias still exists today.

This decision and others by this court are a call to action in defense of already decided precedents of equal treatment under the law.

We will not be confused about our responsibility to challenge institutional bias that continues to make difficult the fair consideration of Black, Latino, and all students of color on their merits and abilities. We must continue to demand a level and fair opportunity for college admissions so that our qualified young people can reach their personal best.

The implications of the court's action will not stop with institutions of higher learning. Make no mistake about it, we have entered a new era for the struggle and fight for our civil rights. This decision will have pro-



Sandré R. Swanson. California State Assembly courtesy photo.

found impacts on the social and economic life that affects all of us every day.

It will embolden those comfortable with unequal treatment in our educational institutions and our places of employment. We have to continue our collective rejection of this court's decisions that attempt to push us back in time and will challenge next, all of our historic gains of the Civil Rights Movement.

We all must remain committed to taking specific actions nationally and in our state to assure opportu-

nities for learning and our affirmative challenge of bias and prejudice in all of its ugly forms.

Let us remember and acknowledge that diversity not only adds to our lives the richness and beauty of our culture. Historically, diversity has significantly contributed to our advancements in science, infrastructure, technology, and the very valuable intellectual properties of our nation. Our insistence on fairness will improve the quality of life for us all.

Note: The Honorable Sandré R Swanson is a former Assemblymember for Oakland, Alameda and Piedmont and a California State Senate 7th District candidate.