



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERASE Racism Applauds Federal Court Decision to Temporarily Halt Bans on DEI Programs

Syosset, NY – February 24, 2025 – ERASE Racism issued today the following statement applauding a federal court decision to temporarily halt bans on DEI programs:

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Adam Abelson, a federal judge in Maryland, temporarily blocked the Trump Administration from implementing bans on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs at federal agencies and businesses, universities, schools, and other organizations that receive funding from the federal government. ERASE Racism applauds this vital decision that supports constitutionally-protected rights to free speech and support for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As Politico reports, “Judge Abelson ruled that Trump’s policy likely violates the First Amendment because it penalizes private organizations based on their viewpoints.” Further, the federal judge states that the policy is “written so vaguely that it chills the free speech of federal contractors concerned they will be punished if they don’t eliminate programs meant to encourage a diverse workforce.”

In the ruling, which comes in response to a lawsuit brought by the City of Baltimore and three groups, Judge Abelson wrote: "As Plaintiffs put it, 'efforts to foster inclusion have been widespread and uncontroversially legal for decades. Plaintiffs' irreparable harms include widespread chilling of unquestionably protected speech."

This decision is a crucial step in restoring the right of Americans to advocate, encourage, and enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, which has broad benefits for all populations. It continues a long history of federal courts having to step in to ensure that those who oppose diversity do not prevail.

DEI programs provide invaluable benefits to individuals and communities, including fostering environments where people from all backgrounds—especially youth—can thrive, feel seen, and have equal opportunities. These programs contribute to healthier,

more productive workplaces and educational institutions and are foundational in building stronger, more cohesive societies. ERASE Racism fully supports the continuation of DEI programs, which benefit us all by creating more inclusive and equitable communities for future generations.

To speak with a representative of ERASE Racism, contact Henry Miller – hmill@highimpactpartnering.com or 917-921-8034.

ERASE Racism is a New York-based civil rights organization that exposes and addresses the devastating impact of historical and ongoing structural racism, particularly in public school education and housing. It does so through research, policy advocacy, legal action, and educating and mobilizing the public – driving policy change at local, regional and statewide levels and through national coalitions. It has been recognized locally and nationally for its cutting-edge work.