

In this essay, Professor Michael A. Olivas calls out conservative and restrictionist groups that have actively resisted the progress of minority enrollment and affirmative action. He predicts that restrictionist and conservative actors will likely increase their efforts, even against race-neutral initiatives that are likely to assist minorities; second, mainstream and progressive groups offer little principled resistance, but rather make suggestions that are unlikely to be efficacious; and third, it is unclear what the Supreme Court will do when challenges to higher education are undertaken by these groups, as it does not always make a fine distinction between K–12 and higher education. These restrictionists, whose agendas are not aimed at progressive action or equity, but largely at preserving white privilege, are often successful at dismantling even modest efforts at integrating colleges and universities, but offer no positive or useful solution to this issue.