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LETTER

Diverse Asian Applicants

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[“Asian-Americans in the Argument”](#) (Education Life, Nov. 4) rightly points out that Asian-Americans are a diverse community with varying access and privilege in education. It doesn't make sense to treat Asian-Americans as monolithic, in admissions or otherwise.

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Any discrimination against Asian applicants is not a byproduct of lawful affirmative action. In our [brief](#) supporting the university in Fisher v. University of Texas, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund opposes any discrimination or “negative action” against Asian applicants. However, there is no evidence that the university’s affirmative action policy discriminates against Asian applicants in its effort to provide equal opportunity and diversity.

Asian-Americans are not severely divided on affirmative action. Nearly 100 Asian-American organizations signed onto amicus briefs supporting the university, while a scant five Asian-American groups signed onto briefs supporting the plaintiff, Abigail Fisher.

The National Asian American Survey’s September 2012 [report](#) found that over two-thirds of Asian-Americans support affirmative action in education and employment. In a June 2012 report, the Pew Research Center said that 61 percent of Asian respondents didn’t think their ethnic origin would affect education admissions, 20 percent thought their ethnic origin would help and only 12 percent thought it would be harmful.

Diverse though the Asian-American community is, it continues to support policies that promote equal opportunity.

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New York, Nov. 4, 2012

The writer is director of the Educational Equity Program at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

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