

A Statement from:

The African American Policy Forum □ American Civil Liberties Union □ Asian American Legal Defense and

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In these final days of the Supreme Court's term, civil rights groups and individuals committed to social justice

In a series of 5-4 decisions, the Supreme Court has invalidated or weakened parts of a number of Congressional

The Court has taken steps to change fundamentally the powers of the national government, accomplish the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. And in *Sandoval*, the Court closed off access to the courts

Most recently, in *Buckhannon*, the Court dealt yet another blow to civil rights enforcement, limiting the ability

This is not about any single issue, such as abortion, affirmative action, or the separation of church and state

In particular, we are extremely concerned about three cases decided by the Court this term. Taken together,

- *Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama v. Garrett*, 531 U.S. 356 (2001),
- *Alexander v. Sandoval*, 121 S. Ct. 1511 (2001), and
- *Buckhannon v. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*, 121 S. Ct. 1835 (2001)

We would also like to call attention to a number of other cases decided by the Court in the past few years that also raise concern:

- United States v. Morrison, 529 U.S. 598 (2000),
- Kimel v. Florida Board of Regents, 528 U.S. 62 (2000),
- Alden v. Maine, 527 U.S. 706 (1999),
- College Savings Bank v. Florida Prepaid Postsecondary Ed. Expense Bd., 527 U.S. 666 (1999),
- Florida Prepaid Postsecondary Education Expense Board v. College Savings Bank, 527 U.S. 627 (1999),
- Boerne v. Flores, 521 U.S. 507 (1997),
- Idaho v. Coeur d'Alene Tribe, 521 U.S. 261 (1997),
- Seminole Tribe v. Florida, 517 U.S. 44 (1996), and
- United States v. Lopez, 514 U.S. 549 (1995).