

## **Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Position on Affirmative Action Initiative Position**

- The business community is committed to diversity in the state's institutions of higher learning and believes this diversity strengthens our competitiveness as a state and ultimately helps produce a stronger workforce
- The repeal of affirmative action from the state's constitution would negatively impact progress made by the University of Nebraska and other entities towards the recruitment of more minority students to our state as it has in other states that have enacted such a repeal
- The repeal of affirmative action from the state's constitution would likely mean the end of minority contracting programs that are an important aspect of the Chamber's ongoing community development strategies in North Omaha, Midtown and South Omaha and other capacity building efforts
- The repeal of affirmative action sends a negative message to prospective Nebraskans and prospective employers considering Nebraska that we do not value diversity in our public policies
- The business community is comfortable with the current status of the law on affirmative action as established by U.S. Supreme Court decisions and does not believe that any amendment to the Nebraska Constitution is necessary or in the best interests of the State of Nebraska
- Concern, once again, that outside interests are funding petition drives and attempts to alter the constitution of Nebraska based on narrow interests and national agenda items that did not originate from the citizens of Nebraska

**Therefore, be it resolved, that the Public Policy Council recommends to the Executive Committee and the full board of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce that the Chamber adopt a position in OPPOSITION to the Connerly petition effort and its companion legislation.**

**And secondly, that the Chamber urge its membership, state and local elected leadership, other community organizations and the general public not to sign the petition effort nor to vote for the issue should it be placed on the November ballot.**