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ENDORSED
FILED
ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUG 31 2020

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
By JHALISA CASTANEDA
Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

KAWIKA SMITH, through his guardian ad litem LEILANI REED; GLORIA D, through her guardian ad litem DIANA I; STEVEN C., through his guardian ad litem, MARGARET F.; ALEXANDRA VILLEGAS, an individual; CHINESE FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, nonprofit organization; COLLEGE ACCESS PLAN, a nonprofit organization; COLLEGE SEEKERS, a nonprofit organization; COMMUNITY COALITION, a nonprofit organization; DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION, a nonprofit organization; and LITTLE MANILA RISING, a nonprofit organization,

Plaintiffs,

v.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA; JANET NAPOLITANO, in her official capacity as President of the University of California; and DOES 1-100,

Defendants.

Case No. RG19046222

ORDER AFTER HEARING GRANTING
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Plaintiffs seek to enjoin Defendant The Regents of the University of California ("UC") from considering the results of SAT or ACT tests in admissions and scholarship decisions. While

1 they decry the asserted racially discriminatory and classist impact of the tests, their primary
2 argument is that the current “test-optional” policy at most of the UC campuses denies admissions
3 applicants with disabilities meaningful access to the additional admission opportunity that test-
4 submitters will enjoy, in large part because they have not taken these tests and will not be able to
5 take them with appropriate accommodation during this Covid-19 pandemic. In short, students
6 with disabilities are denied the same option and second chance for admissions that non-disabled
7 applicants enjoy in the test-optional regime.

8 Although the parties dispute many things, many basic facts in this case are not disputed.
9 UC, like many universities, for years required undergraduate admissions applicants to submit
10 SAT or ACT test results as part of their applications, and it considered such test results as part of
11 its admission criteria. On May 21, 2020, however, UC decided to eventually eliminate the use of
12 the tests. In the first phase, its campuses could decide to continue the use of the test as an
13 “optional” part of the admissions process until 2022. Thereafter, the admissions process would
14 be “test-blind.” A number of campuses, including UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and UC Irvine,
15 have decided to immediately abandon the use of these tests even in an optional manner. Other
16 campuses, such as UC Riverside, UC San Diego, and UCLA have elected to continue the
17 optional use of the test.

18 The one month application period opens on November 1, 2020, and tests may be
19 submitted as late as the end of the year for the test optional campuses.

20 The current Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in restrictions in the availability of test-sites.
21 While test-taking opportunities for all students have been limited, for persons with disabilities,
22 the ability to obtain accommodations or even to locate suitable test locations for the test is
23 “almost nil.” (Hiss Decl. par. 54).

24 The court concludes that plaintiffs have satisfied their burden of justifying the issuance of
25 a preliminary injunction.

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The SAT and ACT tests have long been a part of the UC Admissions process, and have also long been the subject of much controversy regarding their validity, alleged bias, and other issues. The experts from both sides in this case agree that these are serious matters which limit the utility of the tests under normal circumstances. (*See generally* Blanck Decl. Supp. Plfs.’ Mot. ¶ 19; Hiss Decl. Supp. Def.’s Opp. ¶¶ 28, 30, 36.) The experts debate whether students who do not submit tests at colleges and universities which allow, but do not require, test results as part of their admissions criteria (“test-optional” institutions) are disadvantaged in the admissions process. Both sides cite a work by defense experts Steven T. Syverson and William C. Hiss (along with their co-author Valerie W. Franks, who is not an expert in this case): “Defining Access: How Test-Optional Works” (2018). This research project, apparently not yet published, looked at colleges and universities, not including UC, and compared admission rates. The data all preceded the Covid-19 pandemic. The experts draw different conclusions from the data. (*Compare* Blanck Decl. ¶¶ 40-43; Syverson Decl. ¶¶ 14, 17-21; Hiss Decl. ¶¶ 21-22.) The court agrees with the defense experts that their data do not demonstrate that, in general, non-submitters in the pre-Covid-19, non-UC world were disadvantaged by a test-optional admissions process.

The data cited by the defense experts, however, could not provide sufficient information from which any definitive conclusions could be drawn for applicants with disabilities because “there is limited research, and very limited data, regarding students with Learning Differences/Disabilities (LD) in the college admission process.” (Syverson Decl. ¶ 15.) Dr. Syverson explains that he is “not aware of any study with a sufficiently large amount of appropriate data to allow meaningful conclusions to be drawn about the impacts of test-optional admissions policies on LD students.” (*Id.* ¶ 27.) LD applicants nevertheless are a significant portion of the applicant pool for colleges, ranging from 4-7% of all applicants in the test optional study. (*Id.* ¶ 25.) Other data suggests the proportion of LD college applicants who have disabilities may be greater. (*See* Blanck Decl. ¶ 33 n.33 [4-5% of SAT/ACT test-takers are given

1 accommodations, but 14% of California students qualify for special education and 12.5%
2 receive services through IEPs under the IDEA].)

3 The challenges for applicants with disabilities in the pre-Covid-19 world were
4 substantial. Significant barriers faced these students seeking accommodations in the SAT or ACT
5 process. (Blanck Decl. ¶¶ 25-32; Offiesh Decl. ¶¶ 22-37.) There is little data regarding the
6 validity or reliability of these tests for test-takers with disabilities. (Blanck Decl. ¶¶ 21-22.) Such
7 students nevertheless score lower on average on these tests than their non-disabled peers, even
8 when they receive test accommodations. (Blanck Decl. ¶¶ 33.) Indeed, defense expert Syverson
9 states “I fully acknowledge and endorse the numerous concerns over the lack of value,
10 appropriateness, and accessibility of the SAT/ACT for LD students.” (Syverson Decl. ¶ 26.)

11 The barriers faced by students with disabilities have been greatly exacerbated by the
12 Covid-19 epidemic, which has disrupted test taking locations, closed schools, and limited access
13 to school counselors. While plaintiffs’ witnesses recount these problems in great detail (*see*
14 *generally* Blanck, Kazan, Offiesh and Grajewski Decls.), defense expert Hiss bluntly
15 summarizes: “As the expert witnesses have expressed, the odds in this Covid time of students
16 either getting their accommodations approved or finding a suitable testing site are *almost nil*,
17 especially in California with its extraordinarily poor ratio of students to guidance counselors who
18 are supposed to guide requests for accommodations, and given that most schools have been
19 closed since mid-spring, and are likely to remain in limbo well into the fall.” (Hiss Decl. ¶ 54
20 [emphasis added].)

21 To be sure, Covid-19 has disrupted the testing process for many students to an extent that,
22 at the hearing on this matter, defense counsel could not offer an estimate of the number of likely
23 test-takers this year. But the barriers faced by students with disabilities are indisputably
24 significantly greater than those faced by non-disabled students.

25 As noted above, UC has adopted a temporary “test-optional” policy but left it to
26 individual campuses to decide whether to permit a test option at all. As of the date of the hearing

1 on this matter, three UC campuses (UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC Santa Cruz) have decided
2 against allowing the test option. (To use the UC's term, they are "Test-Blind Campuses.") The
3 other six campuses are "test optional," which means applicants have the option to submit the test
4 results or not. (Of course, as noted above, students with disabilities do not have a test option as a
5 practical matter because the chances of being able to take either standardized test with or without
6 accommodations are almost nil.)

7 The "test-optional" campuses, with the exception of UC Riverside, all do an initial
8 "holistic review" of an applicant without taking test results into account. Thereafter, for test-
9 submitters, there is a second review including test scores. UC Riverside, on the other hand, uses a
10 "Dual-algorithmic" process under which each student is evaluated for admission without
11 consideration of test results, based on their entire application, and separately evaluated with the
12 test results included. Whichever process results in a higher score is used for UC Riverside's
13 admissions decisions.

14 While the Regent's declarants state that the absence of a test will not be held against
15 applicants, and assert that admissions officials will be trained to not do so, they do not dispute
16 that the inclusion of test results can help an applicant's chances of admission, and will not hurt
17 their chances of admission. As counsel for UC conceded at the hearing on this matter, test results
18 can only help, and never hurt an applicant. Put another way, the tests are treated as plus factor
19 and thus test-submitters are given a second opportunity for admissions consideration.

20 **II. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

21 The standards for preliminary injunctive relief are well settled. "In deciding whether to
22 issue a preliminary injunction, a court must weigh two "interrelated" factors: (1) the likelihood
23 that the moving party will ultimately prevail on the merits and (2) the relative interim harm to the
24 parties from issuance or nonissuance of the injunction. . . . The trial court's determination must
25 be guided by a 'mix' of the potential-merit and interim-harm factors; the greater the plaintiff's
26

1 showing on one, the less must be shown on the other to support an injunction.” (*Butt v. State of*
2 *California* (1992) 4 Cal.4th 668, 677–678 [citation omitted].)

3 Although the court must assess the relative harm to the parties, there is no freestanding
4 requirement that plaintiff establish irreparable injury. In *Butt*, the court was faced with a similar
5 allegation, but held “the court was not obliged to deny a preliminary injunction simply because
6 plaintiffs failed to demonstrate that “irreparable” harm to students was unavoidable by other
7 means. The preliminary record properly convinced the court *both* that plaintiffs had a reasonable
8 probability of success on the merits, *and* that they would suffer more harm in the meantime if an
9 injunction were denied than the State would suffer if it were granted. This “mix” of the
10 “interrelated” relevant factors fully justified the court’s decision to grant the injunction.” (*Butt*,
11 *supra*, 4 Cal.4th at pp. 693–694; *see also White v. Davis* (2003) 30 Cal.4th 528, 554 [“To obtain
12 a preliminary injunction, a plaintiff ordinarily is required to present evidence of the irreparable
13 injury *or* interim harm that it will suffer if an injunction is not issued.” [emphasis added].)

14 The court accordingly evaluates the parties’ likelihood of success and relative harm.

15 **A. Standing to Seek Injunction**

16 Earlier in this case, this court addressed standing issues when faced with Defendant’s
17 Demurrer. The Court noted that UC conceded that plaintiff Stephan C had standing under the
18 Disabled Person Act but as then pleaded, there were insufficient facts alleged to establish
19 associational standing for the organizational plaintiffs, including College Seekers because the
20 complaint failed to allege that the organization’s members were affected by the test requirement.
21 (Order After Hearing on Defendants’ Demurrer to Plaintiffs’ Complaints [May 15, 2020].)
22 Plaintiffs have since amended their complaint to add additional allegations and plaintiffs and
23 have provided declarations in support of their claims in this motion.

24 Although UC does not explicitly couch their argument against plaintiffs in this motion as
25 a standing claim, the thrust of its argument is that no plaintiff has standing to seek preliminary
26 injunctive relief. UC argues first that no student plaintiff actually seeks admission in the

1 upcoming semester and thus they cannot show any irreparable injury to themselves. UC is correct
2 that some of the plaintiffs are not eligible to seek admission for the 2021 semester. For example,
3 plaintiff Stephen C is currently a sophomore in High School and not eligible to apply in the
4 upcoming year.

5 On the other hand, newly added plaintiff Gary W. just graduated from high school and
6 has completed all UC prerequisites for application. He has diagnosed learning disabilities and
7 received accommodations in high school. He has faced formidable barriers to taking the SAT,
8 and has been unable to do so. Because he is unable take the SAT or ACT with accommodations,
9 he plans to take a “gap year.” (See Gary W. Decl.) UC argues that Gary W. cannot establish
10 irreparable injury to support preliminary relief because he doesn’t plan to apply this year. This
11 argument misreads his declaration. The reason Gary W. is not applying this year is because he
12 cannot take the SAT. He confirms this in his supplemental reply declaration where he states that
13 if UC had a “test blind” policy, he would be happy to apply. (Gary W. Suppl. Decl. ¶¶ 2-5.)

14 Gary W. has alleged and declared sufficient facts to establish standing to seek injunctive
15 relief. Under the DPA, which provides that “potentially aggrieved” individuals may seek
16 injunctive relief, “virtually any disabled person” may seek such relief. (*Flowers v. Prasad* (2015)
17 238 Cal.App. 4th 930, 943, quoting *Jankey v. Lee* (2012) 55 Cal.4th 1038, 1051.)

18 UC also argues that organizational plaintiff College Seekers cannot establish standing
19 because it does not have members who are injured by the test optional policy. But its Executive
20 Director, Laura Kazan, makes clear in her declaration that the organization has student members
21 who have struggled to get accommodated in the test process and that, in the Covid-19 period,
22 such accommodations are virtually impossible to obtain. (Kazan Decl. ¶¶ 4, 16, 20-23.) Her
23 supplemental declaration confirms that her members include students with disabilities who meet
24 UC requirements, wish to apply in the fall of this year, but cannot take the SAT with the
25 accommodations they require. (Kazan Suppl. Decl. ¶ 4.)

1 UC argues that purported injuries to non-parties cannot establish irreparable injury since
2 no class claims have been pled. Here, however, plaintiffs have shown injury to several parties.
3 Regents cite no authority for the proposition that class claims are required under California law
4 in order to seek an injunction where individual plaintiffs have established their own standing to
5 seek such relief, nor do they explain how individual relief could be provided to plaintiffs where,
6 as here, a general policy has been challenged. In any event, even in federal cases where the
7 strictures of Article III impose constitutional standing requirements not applicable to California
8 state courts (*see People ex.rel. Becerra v. Superior Court* (2018) 29 Cal.App.5th 486, 497), an
9 individual plaintiff is not barred from seeking broad injunctive relief in the absence of a certified
10 or even alleged class where the challenge is to a general policy. (*See, e.g., Bresgal v. Brock* (9th
11 Cir. 1987) 843 F.2d 1163, 1171.)

12 **B. Plaintiffs Are Likely to Succeed on their Disability Claims**

13 Plaintiffs assert claims under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the Disabled Persons Act
14 (DPA), and Government Code § 11135. Both the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the DPA
15 incorporate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and make violation of the ADA a basis
16 for liability under these California statutes. (*See* Civ. Code §§ 51(f), 54(c), 54.1(d).) In adopting
17 the ADA, the California Legislature intended “to strengthen California law in areas where it is
18 weaker than the [ADA] and to retain California law when it provides more protection for
19 individuals with disabilities than the [ADA].” (*Munson v. Del Taco, Inc.*, (2009) 46 Cal.4th 661,
20 669, quoting Stats. 1992, ch. 913, § 1, p. 4282).

21 The ADA protections are not limited to victims of intentional discrimination. Rather, a
22 broad range of conduct is proscribed, as the applicable regulations attest. The regulations provide
23 that a public entity “may not, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, on
24 the basis of disability . . . (ii) Afford a qualified individual with a disability an opportunity to
25 participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service that is not equal to that afforded others
26 . . . (iii) Provide a qualified individual with a disability with an aid, benefit, or service that is not

1 as effective in affording equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or
2 reach the same level of achievement as that provided to others . . . [or] (vii) Otherwise limit a
3 qualified individual with a disability in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or
4 opportunity enjoyed by others receiving the aid, benefit or service.” (28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(1).)
5 Further, “[a] public entity shall not impose or apply eligibility criteria that screen out or tend to
6 screen out an individual with a disability or any class of individuals from fully and equally
7 enjoying any service, program, or activity being offered.” (28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(8).)

8 The ADA thus extends to reach a range of conduct, including conduct that creates an
9 adverse impact on an individual with a disability. The Supreme Court, however, requires a
10 showing that the proscribed conduct has denied persons with disabilities “meaningful access to
11 the benefit” that is offered, provided that “the benefit itself, of course, cannot be defined in a way
12 that effectively denies otherwise qualified handicapped individuals the meaningful access to
13 which they are entitled” (*Alexander v. Choate* (1985) 469 U.S. 287, 301.) Under that test,
14 the ADA eschews reliance solely on traditional intentional or adverse impact labels; instead, the
15 courts must look to the “meaningful access standard.” (*Crowder v. Kitagawa* (9th Cir. 1996) 81
16 F.3d 1480, 1484.) In *Crowder*, for example, Hawaii’s canine quarantine requirement for travelers
17 was equally applied to all persons but denied meaningful access to vision impaired individuals
18 “in a manner different and greater than it burdens others.” (*Ibid.*)

19 In *Smith v. City of Oakland* (N.D. Cal. 2020) __F.Supp.3d __, 2020 WL 2517857,
20 persons with disabilities claimed an Oakland Ordinance limited the number of accessible
21 dwelling units available to them. Defendant argued that the plaintiffs in fact were able to rent in
22 Oakland. The court found that this assertion “mischaracterizes the alleged injury” because
23 plaintiffs “allege[d] that they were denied equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from”
24 the ordinance and were thus denied meaningful access to services that “remain open and easily
25 accessible by others.” (*Id.* at *8.) While the plaintiffs could rent in Oakland, this no more
26 excused the denial of services than the disabled court attendees who were able to attend court “by

1 crawling up the courthouse steps.” (*Id.* at *9, citing *Tennessee v. Lane* (2004) 541 U.S. 509.) The
2 cases do not define “meaningful access” with precision. Conduct that creates some additional
3 burden on a person with a disability may not alone be sufficient. (*Hunsaker v. Contra Costa*
4 *County* (9th Cir. 1988) 149 F.3d 1041, 1043.)

5 UC argues that Plaintiffs cannot show a denial of meaningful access because they cannot
6 show that the optional use of the tests will have an adverse impact on admission rates of persons
7 with disabilities. Because the test optional regime has not been in place for an admissions cycle,
8 UC is correct that there is no data available to demonstrate such adverse impact. Further, there is
9 a paucity of data for persons with disabilities in the admissions process at schools with test
10 optional policies. (Syverson Decl. par. 27.) Relief under the ADA, however, is not dependent on
11 proof of such ultimate impact. Rather, the question here is whether the inability of persons with
12 disabilities to avail themselves of the test option, and thus the inability to take advantage of the
13 “plus factor” or “second look” available to test takers is a denial of meaningful access to an
14 opportunity or benefit that persons without disabilities enjoy. In short, applicants with disabilities
15 are denied meaningful access to the “aid, benefit or service” that test-taker have. They are denied
16 a potential second chance at admission.

17 UC suggests its “holistic” process might make up for the denial of the ability to offer a
18 test. But as its counsel admitted in the hearing on this matter, a test can only help the applicant.
19 First, whether to submit a test score is solely up to the applicant: if they believe the test will not
20 assist them, they need not submit it. More to the point, the specific procedures at the campuses
21 that have chosen a test-optional regime, give the applicant the benefit of a higher score (UC
22 Riverside), or gives the test taker a “second look” (UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis).

23 UC analogizes this case to *O’Connell v. Superior Court* (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452. In
24 that case, the Court of Appeal rejected an equal protection challenge to the high school exit exam
25 when students had alternatives to the exam and the only arguable injury they would face would
26 be a delay in receipt of a diploma. There was, however, no question that the high school diploma

1 requirement was a valid method of measuring academic achievement and that there was a clear
2 public interest in requiring such a measure of achievement. (*Id.* at p.1471.) Here, the evidence
3 shows that the efficacy of the tests is at best minimal, and the ADA provides a broader basis for
4 liability than the equal protection clause. Nor is the fact that students with disabilities have other
5 campus options at UC or elsewhere a defense to liability. As UC must acknowledge, the
6 campuses are not fungible. They differ in their geographic location, and also in the relative
7 strengths of scholastic and extra-curricular programs. Students with disabilities do not have the
8 same meaningful access as non-disabled students if they are relegated to only a few of the UC
9 campuses.

10 The court concludes that plaintiffs have made a substantial case that they will likely
11 succeed on the merits under the current pandemic conditions.

12 C. Relative Harm

13 Plaintiffs have shown that they are denied meaningful access to the additional “benefit,
14 aid or service” that the test option affords. Unlike their non-disabled peers, they do not have the
15 option to submit test scores; even if they did, their chances of obtaining necessary test
16 accommodations are virtually non-existent. They get no second look or “plus factor” that non-
17 disabled students are afforded in the admissions process.

18 UC argues that this harm must be balanced against harm to it and third parties.

19 UC argues that the test optional process afford students “choice” and “flexibility.” (citing
20 Syverson Dec ¶ 34 and Hiss Decl. ¶ 31). The extent of this choice during the current Covid-19
21 period, when test centers are limited, is open to question. UC and some of its experts suggest a
22 test-optional regime might assist some applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds. This
23 assertion is speculative and, more to the point, does not dispute that applicants with disabilities
24 will be unable to take advantage of this benefit or that disadvantaged applicants in general would
25 be much less likely to be able to benefit from the test option than non-disadvantaged applicants.
26 Indeed they do not dispute that the test option is likely to be more available to students from

1 higher-income families who have the means to pay for test preparation courses and travel to
2 distant available test locations.

3 UC also argues that granting the injunction would cause confusion and upend the
4 admissions process. Although an injunction would no doubt dismay some, the application
5 process has not yet opened. The fact that a number of campuses have decided in short order to
6 eliminate the test as part of the admission process, and others have a two-step process—the first
7 step of which allows all students to be evaluated without a test—undermines a claim that
8 eliminating the test will result in chaos or confusion by the admissions departments. All UC
9 campuses must evaluate all applicants without the tests in the first instance. Eliminating the test
10 option would only eliminate that second step.

11 Moreover, the “chaos and confusion” argument ignores the realities of this pandemic
12 period. The pandemic has already disrupted the admissions process—by limiting test availability,
13 disputing the final semester of high school seniors’ classes, precluding counseling and the like.
14 (Hiss Decl. ¶ 29 [“Through circumstances with Covid none of us could have predicted, a lot of
15 the next year in Admissions will be quite imperfect.”].) Nobody expects the pre-Covid-19 status
16 quo under these conditions, however fervently they wish it would return. The precise manner in
17 which the test-optional schools will implement the new process has not been firmly established at
18 each of the schools, and information about the process has not been uniformly published. (*See*
19 *Def.’s Opp. at pp.21-22.*)

20 UC properly argues that the court should consider the public interest as well as the
21 interest of third parties. The public interest in continuing the use of tests that the University has
22 indicated that it will abandon is not clear, particularly where three UC campuses, including
23 Berkeley, will immediately cease using test results in admissions. UC does not seriously argue
24 that the test is a valid and effective means of determining admissions nor does it deny that that
25 non-disabled, economically advantaged, and white test takers have an inherent advantage in the
26

1 test process. It also does not deny that, in the current pandemic conditions, the availability of
2 tests is further restricted and thus would likely exacerbate these advantages.

3 The court concludes that the balance of harm tips decidedly in favor of the Plaintiffs.

4 **III. EVIDENTIARY RULINGS**

5 UC's objections to the Declaration of Lisa Grajewski are **OVERRULED**. Grajewski is
6 qualified as an expert and has foundation for the opinions expressed in the declaration. The
7 arguments raised in objection go to the weight of that opinion, not its admissibility.

8 UC's Objections to the Declaration of Nicole Ofiesh are **OVERRULED**. Ofiesh is
9 qualified as an expert and has foundation for the opinions expressed in the declaration. The
10 arguments raised in objection go to the weight of that opinion, not its admissibility.

11 UC's Objections to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Declaration of Gary W are
12 **OVERRULED**. These statements are not offered for the truth of the matters asserted but rather
13 for Gary W.'s state of mind.

14 UC's Objections to paragraphs 9 and 20 of the Declaration of Stephen C. are
15 **OVERRULED**. Stephen C.'s personal fears are testimonial facts and his conclusions based on
16 limited information are admissible lay opinion. UC's Objection to paragraph 10 of the
17 Declaration of Stephen C. is **SUSTAINED**. Stephen C.'s guidance counselor's statements may
18 not be offered for the truth of the matters asserted.

19 UC's objection to the Declaration of Dillon Delvo is **OVERRULED**. The declaration
20 tends to show that families and students are aware that a "test-optional" application system is an
21 aid or benefit to applicants who are able to provide test scores.

22 UC's objections to the Declaration of Lauren Kazan are **OVERRULED**. Kazan is a
23 guidance counselor and may speak from her own experience, even without showing that it is
24 representative. Her opinion that test-optional admissions processes will advantage test-takers is
25 adequately supported by her experience as a guidance counselor and other evidence in the record
26

1 on this motion. Her conclusion that she must encourage her students to take standardized tests
2 notwithstanding “test-optional” processes is not speculation.

3 The Court declines to rule on the remaining objections as they are not relevant to the
4 grounds of its opinion.

5 **IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

6 The Court concludes that that Plaintiffs have met their burden to justify the issuance or a
7 preliminary injunction. The motion is therefore **GRANTED**. The defendants, their officers,
8 agents and employees (including their individual campuses), are hereby enjoined from using SAT
9 and the ACT test results for admissions or scholarship decisions¹ during the pendency of this
10 action.

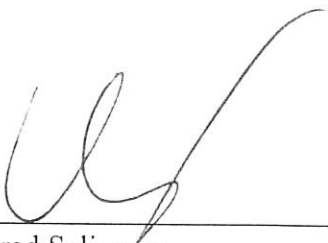
11 In a footnote in its opposition papers, UC cites Code of Civil Procedure section 529,
12 arguing that, if an injunction is granted, the Court must require the moving party to provide an
13 undertaking sufficient to cover any damages sustained by UC by reason of the injunction.
14 Although mandatory in form, there are recognized exceptions to this requirement, such as the
15 poverty of the plaintiffs. (*Conover v. Hall* (1974) 11 Cal. 3d 842.) There is a split of authority as
16 to whether in fixing the amount of the undertaking the likelihood of prevailing in the case may be
17 taken into account. (*Compare ABBA Rubber Co. v. Seaquist* (1991) 235 Cal.App.3d 1, 16 n.8,
18 *with Oiyee v. Fox* (2012) 211 Cal.App.4th 1036, 1062.) In any event, UC offers no argument or
19 evidence in support of its request regarding the amount of the undertaking that may be assessed.
20 The Court, in its discretion, sets the amount of plaintiffs’ undertaking at \$1,000.

21 The court **SETS** a Case Management Conference in this case on September 29, 2020, at
22 3:00 pm. A Joint CMC Statement should be filed (and emailed to the department clerk) no later
23 than 5 days before the hearing.

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25
26 ¹ Although plaintiffs’ motion also seeks to enjoin the use of the tests for post-enrollment course placement
decisions, their motion lacks evidentiary support and no plaintiff at this point has shown that such use would cause
them injury. Accordingly, the court denies this request for relief.

1 Dated: August 31, 2020



Brad Seligman
Judge of the Superior Court

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case Number: RG19046222 (Consolidated with RG19046343)

Case Name: Smith v. Regents of the University of California

RE: ORDER AFTER HEARING GRANTING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am not a party to this cause and that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was mailed first class, postage prepaid, in a sealed envelope, and that the mailing of the foregoing and execution of this certificate occurred at 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, California.

Executed: 09/01/2020

Jhalisa Castaneda
Courtroom Clerk, Dept. 23

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