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California Governor Endorses Repeal Of Affirmative Action

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)— Gov. Pete Wilson endorsed a 1996 ballot initiative to repeal the state's affirmative action laws recently, telling Republican leaders such statutes are unfair.

"Is it right that we have laws that bestow preference solely based on race or sex?" he asked about 2,000 delegates and guests at the state Republican Party's

convention.

"It is time we end discrimination against all Americans," the GOP governor said. "Let us begin to undo the corrosive unfairness of reverse discrimination. ... We will not confer false group preferences. We will not lower standards."

The Republicans want to repeal all California laws granting state jobs, contracts and admission to

colleges on the basis of race, sex or ethnicity.

A handful of Black delegates to the predominantly white convention handed out leaflets from the California Black Conservative Network opposing the proposal.

In Washington, the new GOP-led Congress is taking aim at affirmative action as well.

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Also, he said, 92 percent of students at State System of Higher Education schools are white, and only five percent are African-American. Whites also received \$8 billion in service contracts in Pennsylvania last year and \$2 billion in commodities contracts last year; in both categories, minority firms received less than one percent of the contracts, according to James.

"This seems to be the trend that began in the (national) Republicans' first 100 days," said Bivins.

"We must review what our legal remedies are and organize on a grassroots level to sound the alarm. We can't operate business as usual when our very lives are threatened; When people don't have jobs, and contract opportunities, they can't buy homes, etc. and their whole quality of life is affected."

"What they did is an attack — an act of cold war," said James. "Hopefully, we will form a war coalition; maybe we could call it 'We Are Against Reversals.'"
