<u>Opening Remarks</u>: Good evening and thank you for coming. I'm Barbara Grutter, President of Toward A Fair Michigan, more easily known by its acronym - TAFM.

TAFM is an independent, non-profit, charitable education activity chaired by Dr. William B. Allen, Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University, former Dean of James Madison College, and former Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. As an organization, TAFM has dedicated itself to furthering understanding of the equal opportunity issues involved in guaranteeing civil rights for all citizens, and to promoting a civil, fair, and open exchange of views on the question of affirmative action preferences.

Just 14 days from today, Michiganians will have the opportunity to vote on Proposal 2 – the actual ballot language is in tonight's program handout.

By the time that vote comes, nothing is more important than that the citizens of Michigan have a fair opportunity to consider every side of the issue so they can decide for themselves what is right and wrong, just and unjust, and determine what is the right thing to do in this case.

By providing a series of public forums in which the citizens of Michigan may join experts to discuss the justifications for, the alternatives to, and the consequences of affirmative action preferences; Toward A Fair Michigan aims to facilitate an open deliberation that will produce the best public decisions.

This particular debate "**Affirmative Action: Pro & Con"** is cosponsored the Wayne State University Black Law Students Association and the Wayne State College Republicans. We want to give special thanks and acknowledgement to Matt Barsenas, Alicia Malik, George Roberts, and Joan Barrett for their work in planning this event.

In order to promote substance over rhetoric, TAFM engages speakers outside of the political arena. As is the case with all TAFM sponsored events, the debaters speak on their own behalf, and not on behalf of TAFM.

The moderator for tonight's debate is Dr. David J. Strauss, Dean of Students at Wayne State. He received he Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership from the Ohio State University, his Master's degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Indiana University, and his bachelor's degree in Economics from Bucknell. Let's welcome Dr. Strauss.