Lawsuits Don’t Tell Affirmative Action Story

To the Editor:

The draft Labor Department report indicating that affirmative action has not unfairly harmed whites misses the point (news article, March 31). The study’s conclusion rests on the fact that there have been few successful reverse-discrimination lawsuits. However, the major complaint against affirmative action is not that it is illegal, but that it is legal.

The reason for so few successful cases is not that affirmative action is rare; indeed, the report notes that 11 million women and minorities have been helped by it. Rather, the reason is that the Supreme Court has given employers broad latitude to use race and sex preferences to hire and promote women and minorities over white males with superior qualifications.

KINGSLEY R. BROWNE
Associate Professor of Law
Wayne State University
Detroit