

From: cshamban>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:23 AM

To: Shanine Coats

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save ethnic studies – don't shut out Arab-American experience

Dear Instructional Quality Commission Shanine Coats,

I'm a constituent of yours and deeply concerned with reports that Arab American Studies may be cut from California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), under the false premise of it not being within the four racialized groups of Ethnic Studies. The ongoing attacks by the Trump Administration against Muslims is another reason why Arab American studies must be included. The Arab-American community has a long history in this country about which most people are unaware. The ignorance of the Trump administration continues to be clear that it supports ongoing of settler colonial activities of the Israeli government policies. For example, the most recent "Peace Plan". This plan had no input from Palestinians and codified the actions of the Israeli government to allow settlement in the Occupied Territories which is against International law.

The field's leaders of color, including the Association of Asian American Studies, Asian American Studies Department Chairs, and the Save CA Ethnic Studies Coalition – are insisting Arab American Studies belongs in the curriculum, and that it remain.

As is evident in the spirit of AB2016 legislation, the California Department of Education must respect communities of color, and have deference to Ethnic Studies professors and practitioners of color for this project. I am very concerned that a group is able to block the experience of Arab Americans from the curriculum. Their ongoing experience of racism, disinformation, and

Efforts to undermine or water-down any critical components of the draft, and of Ethnic Studies as a field must be rejected.

I know you are well-aware of the targeted attacks on Arabs and Muslims by the Trump administration, and the demonization of the struggle of migrants and people of color throughout the United States. As a sanctuary state, California should continue to be a counterweight against that trend – not serve as a stamp of approval.

Sincerely,
Cindy Shamban
Berkeley, CA