

From: Raphael Bivas
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 8:23 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Cc: Tony Thurmond
Subject: Opinion on curriculum change

Dear Instructional Quality Commission of the California Board of Education,

I am concerned about the proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. I support the idea of there being an ethnic studies class but urge you to make major revisions or a significant rewrite of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, consistent with the recommendations from the California Legislative Jewish Caucus letter, Stand With Us, Jimena, Amcha and others.

With rising anti-Semitism, it seems wrong-headed to develop a curriculum that not only recognizes anti-Semitism as a form of discrimination and hatred, but that perpetuates anti-Semitic tropes and describes the Middle Eastern conflict with a decidedly anti-Israel bias. Additionally, as the son of a Jewish refugee from Egypt, I also object to the omission of references to the Mizrahi Jewish community, even though they are well represented among California's Jewish population.

I ask you to make major revisions or a significant rewrite of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum to address these concerns.

Thank you,

Raphael Bivas