

**From:** batool mohammad

**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 10:52 AM

**To:** Ethnic Studies; Superintendent;

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] SAVE ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES

We know from the demands of racial justice sweeping this county that it is offensive and dangerous to shunt the histories and perspectives of people of color to the sidelines. These revisions are tone-deaf to the political moment we are living in. We as Arab Americans are once again being left to fend for ourselves in an increasingly racialized and polarized political climate. CA should be a sanctuary, not a place of danger for me and all those like me. Young people in particular face the consequences of Islamophobia. and anti-Arab racism. Arab and Muslim youth are simultaneously invisibilized and targeted. For too long, Arab youth have learned little to nothing about our history besides offensive and racist images and stereotypes. Arab-American studies curriculum provides a critical intervention to these stereotypes in K-12 education. Pro-Israel interest groups should not define antisemitism. Definitions that name criticism of Israel as antisemitic are opposed by many Jewish organizations, both within the United States and internationally. These definitions violate our constitutional right to free speech because their application censors virtually all criticism of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian human rights and equality. These definitions also downplay the main source of antisemitism in the United States, which is white nationalism. Arab-American studies must be saved now and we as Arabs will never stop advocating and fighting for this and for our rights! Change must be made NOW!