

# Armenian-American Studies Collective

July 13, 2020

***In Support of Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), the Importance of West Asian American Experience in Education, and the inclusion of Armenian-American Studies***

Dear honorable drafters,

We, scholars of Armenian-American Studies, firmly stand in support of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) Draft, and the expansion of Asian American Studies to include the experiences of West Asian American communities including: Armenians, Arabs, Iranians (Persians), Kurds, Assyrians and other communities.

Our communities are currently under attack whether through the Travel Ban, histories of invisibility and refugeehood, surveillance and criminalization, and curricula that marginalize our youth's realities and histories. These most recent attacks are part of a long history and ongoing processes of erasure and marginalization. We look to the Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS)'s inclusion of West Asian Americans as an integral part of their field, the work of West Asian American scholars currently defining and envisioning the field, and the necessity of community-centered education that challenges power and oppression. We believe these must be affirmed and uplifted in the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.

The Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is a celebration and product of years of struggle, especially by students. Building on the long legacies of organizers, community members, and past revolutionaries, we commit to building liberatory futures in and through education. We as scholars in the field, and practitioners of Armenian-American Studies in Ethnic Studies departments across the United States, urge you to hear the calls of our communities.

Signed,

Armenian-American Studies Collective

