

From: Rita A

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:19 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] It's never been clearer how important Ethnic Studies is

Dear Ethnic Studies Open Comment,

Respectfully.

Please.

- . Advocate for and support Ethnic Studies.
- . Specifically support inclusion of Arab American studies within the Asian American studies curriculum.

It could be said, examples of racial disparities in the impact of Covid-19, xenophobic targeting of Asian Americans as vectors of disease, as well as OUR national uprising in response to the murder of George Floyd each point to the need for anti-racist education.

All of OUR state's students benefit from comprehensive Ethnic Studies in their K-12 curriculum. Providing this educational insight promotes empathy, understanding, unity and solidarity with one another as well as collective social justice. Ethnic Studies has been linked to increases in positive personal, academic and social outcomes for students. All good things.

California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (CA ESMC) has its core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic Studies in 1969, that include:

- . American Indian studies
- . Africana/Black studies
- . Chicana/Latina studies
- . Asian American studies.

After decades of this higher education tradition— the CA ESMC has included Arab American studies within Asian American studies, this is supported by leading Asian American scholars, including the National Association of Asian American studies.

Since September 11 2001—and exacerbated by Trump's Muslim ban—Arab American scholars need curriculum that welcomes, includes and reflects upon their rich histories, contributions and current realities. Equally, OUR non-Arab scholars would benefit from gaining insights into these cultural contributions to society, too.

Perhaps you are aware of TURATH (Teaching Understanding and Representing Arabs Throughout History). This recent 2020 report was researched and written by teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO). According to AYO's findings:

- . more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television
- . only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school

The results of this poignant-information and influential finding, allows an opportunity for California schools to choose to do better when educating OUR youth and future leaders.

Please.

Please advocate for and support CA ESMC's inclusion of Arab American studies within the Asian American studies curriculum.

With appreciation for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Every good intention.

Sincerely,
Rita A