

**From:** LA

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:53 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Cc:** Superintendent; [emails redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment

1. I am a student
2. I support the ESMC, including Arab American studies
3. Being an Arab youth in America means actively trying to combat the stereotypes that are pushed forward by the media through smiling at complete strangers, even when I am not feeling happy, so they can "feel comfortable" around me, a Muslim woman wearing the hijab. I have to forge my authentic identity in my peers' memories so they don't associate me and my people with the dehumanizing stereotypes they see in the media. This program will provide both my teachers and my peers a richer understanding of my identity as an Arab woman in America, my culture, heritage, and my legitimate history.

- Leen