

From: Peter Levitan
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 1:41 PM
To: CFIRD
Cc: Ethnic Studies
Subject: Proposed New California Ethnic Studies Curriculum

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to register my profound concern over the new proposed California Ethnic Studies Curriculum. As a diehard, dyed-in-the-wool liberal and progressive, I am gravely troubled by the proposed bill's one-sidedness and likelihood of suppressing political, social and cultural views differing from those reflected in the new proposed curriculum.

What California students **desperately** need is education about our myriad and serious political, social and cultural issues in a way that shows them how **complex and nuanced** these issues are before reaching knee-jerk responses based on an overly-simplified presentation of these issues. For example, while free-market laissez-faire capitalism has indeed historically been an oppressive system for most people, students need to learn that our economy (like all in the developed world) is a mixed economy, part-capitalism and part-regulation, so they can have informed opinions as to where that balance should be. Similarly, to characterize the BDS movement as a social movement "whose aim is to achieve freedom through equal rights and justice," without indicating the widespread attack on the BDS movement as fundamentally anti-Semitic, impairs their weighing for themselves the pro and con arguments about the movement.

The proposed curriculum, by only giving California students a one-sided, over-simplified understanding of important ethnic, political and social issues, does them - and our society at large - a great disservice.

Peter Levitan
Sherman Oaks, CA