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30 Years After

ETTA

Rhoda Goldman Plaza



November 13, 2020

By electronic delivery only

Members of the Instructional Quality Commission
c/o California Department of Education
Curriculum Frameworks & Instructional Resources Division
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Revised Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Dear Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

The Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC) is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation. We advocate in Sacramento on behalf of a diverse representation of the California Jewish community, which includes Jewish Federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and many other Jewish community organizations that advocate for and directly serve the California Jewish community and the people of California at large. Our member organizations collectively serve over 1,000,000 people each year.

Over the past 18 months, JPAC has worked on behalf of our member organizations with the California Department of Education (CDE) to reiterate our support for teaching Ethnic Studies in California's schools and to help ensure that the state's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum incorporates "core values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations" for all of California's diverse communities.

JPAC supports the CDE's recommendations for line edits made available to the public on November 6, 2020. We believe that the CDE's recommendations for line edits are both responsible and inclusive, and ensures that the curriculum reflects the diversity of Californians. We therefore encourage the IQC to adopt the CDE's recommendations at the upcoming IQC meeting.

This revision leaves space for JPAC to raise concerns with some of the lessons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lynn Bunim".

Lynn Bunim
Chair, JPAC

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Julie Zeisler".

Julie Zeisler
Executive Director, JPAC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cliff Berg".

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate

Cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, California State Governor

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Honorable Jose Medina, Assembly Member

The Honorable Ben Allen, State Senator, IQC member, Chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus

The Honorable Jessie Gabriel, Assembly Member, Vice Chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the California State Board of Education

Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Director, Instructional Quality Commission, and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Performance, Planning & Technology Branch