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Ms. Soomin Choo

Chairperson, Instructional Quality Commission

California Department of Education:

Dear Ms. Choo,

I have waited until the last day to try to wring a rational response out of the proposed Ethnic Studies Template. I am still ashamed that something I voted for could arrive as blatantly bigoted as it has come. In this country we have traditionally spoken of protecting minority rights while tolerating lynchings and Jim Crow. We have talked freedom of religion, but have practiced accepting religion as if there were only one train of acceptable thought. Why am I then surprised that Ethnic studies would be a stage for bashing Jews? Clearly they are perceived as being of the wrong faith in this template and Israel is cast as the villain.

It is in vogue to demonify Israel in some political arenas. Clear thinking would not submit to such an arbitrary practice. Clear thinking would analyze why the multitude of antidemocratic countries are ignored in the proposed template, but a democratic one is singled out and condemned. The irrationality behind the "hate Israel" that is promoted in the template can only be explained by bias and bigotry. Some people assume Israel is wrong and then prove that Israel is wrong.

No nation should be singled out in an unbiased study. As a graduate student of Anthropology I know that we should not condemn nations, nor use them as an example of evil. Personal bias should not be embedded in a course of study in a public institution.