

From: GAIL COOPER

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 10:27 AM

To: Ethnic Studies; [emails redacted]; Tony Thurmond

Cc: [emails redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

I read this article and was very disturbed. <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/california-ethnic-studies-curriculum>. But I was puzzled why the author pointed readers to the first - 2019 - draft, and not later ones. I believe that was disingenuous on her part and was glad I saw her footnote at the end - though not convinced by her argument. When I saw the last draft, some of my concern was allayed.

I definitely support the teaching of ethnic studies. But even recognizing how sensitive the field is, I do believe it is possible to teach ethnic studies without teaching perspectives as truth or fact that many disagree with. There is so much to teach/learn about the treatment of people of color in the U.S. - certainly more than any curriculum could reasonably cover. Can't the focus just start there? There is enough we can agree on - do you/we really need to get into every conceivable issue such as colonialism and the BDS movement? I am certainly offended that the BDS perspective is accepted as the gospel and that antisemitism is minimized. I truly hope that the Commission/Board assures that school districts do not adopt the abandoned 2019 version.

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Gail Cooper