

From: Svetlana Lee

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:06 AM

To: [list of recipients redacted]; Ethnic Studies

Cc: [emails redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] ESMC Letter from Chinese Democratic Education Foundation

Dear Instructional Quality Commission, California Department of Education, and Governor Newsom,

We are reaching out with deep concern about California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). Our Bay-Area-based organization, the Chinese Democratic Education Foundation (CDEF), has been following the introduction of the ESMC and is disappointed to see that based on the problematic "Guiding Values and Principles," the curriculum promotes and romanticizes specific political ideologies with no counterbalancing perspectives.

The president of CDEF, a democracy fighter, Zheng Fang, is a victim of China's communist regime. Mr. Fang used to be a student activist on Tiananmen Square in 1989 who was crushed over by the government's tank that led to an amputation of legs above the knees. Mr. Fang has lived the ideology that is promoted by the ESMC. While the ESMC's guiding values and principles romanticize Maoist, Marxist and Communist governments, CDEF has every responsibility to call for a significant revision of ESMC's guiding values. We are urging you to revise and free them from the political ideology and to focus on building a thorough understanding of ethnic groups, social issues, and civic engagement that will be delivered in California's public schools.

Sincerely,

Chinese Democratic Education Foundation