

Recipient: California Department of Education

Letter: Greetings,

Dear California Department of Education,

The inclusion of Ethnic Studies in our education system is a great step forward. However, the exclusion of Korean American studies from California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is deeply concerning. This is a petition to include Korean American studies in the Asian American studies portion of the curriculum.

The Korean American community has long helped shape the American landscape through its community activities, its contributions, and more. For example, we can't discuss the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest without including Korean Americans and the ethnic conflicts that arose during that period and how this contributed to the violence against and marginalization of Asian Americans. Korean Americans including Dr. Sammy Lee and Col. Young Oak Kim also helped shape this country through their actions, valor, and character. Dr. Lee won Olympic gold for America in 1948 and 1952 and was the first Asian American man to do so. Col. Kim was a U.S. Army officer who became the first Asian American man to lead a combat battalion on the field during the Korean War. He was also a World War II hero. His humanitarian efforts also shaped the landscape of Los Angeles through the founding of several nonprofits and organizations that help the youth, battered women, and minorities.

Korean American history and identity should be taught as part of the curriculum because this community played a major role in California and the country. Korean Americans founded the Willows Korean Aviation School/Corps in Willows, CA in 1920. The Korean Air Force views the school as its origin. To understand the Korean American community, its history and ethnic identity is to also understand the framework of our country and how this great nation is made up of minorities and their histories.

Also, California recognizes Korean Americans through two resolutions. Hangul Day was passed on October 19, 2019 and recognizes Korean Americans as "an integral part of mainstream American society and have made important contributions as Californians in the fields of finance,

technology, law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military, and government, as well as in other areas.”

California also recognized Korean American Day on January 13, 2020 by passing Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 142 citing that “with diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and respectable communities, while raising their children to be productive Korean Americans.”

To leave out Korean Americans from California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is yet another marginalization and discriminatory action.

# Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sung Kim	Hacienda Heights, CA	2020-09-11	"I am signing because ALL students of California should have the opportunity to learn diverse family stories of diverse ethnic groups. I hope this effort will motivate ALL students of California to contribute to our community and to get benefit from the Ethnic Studies."
Ji Kim	Stevenson ranch, CA	2020-09-11	"Learn culture is part of Asian culture."
Hyesoon Han	Cupertino, CA	2020-09-11	"Need to know variety of ethnic"
eunjoo lee	Cupertino, CA	2020-09-12	"Yes"
Sunwon Park	Daejeon, South Korea	2020-09-12	"I'm signing this petition because I strongly believe it."
James Yu	North Hills, CA	2020-09-12	"We need to teach Korean heritage to our children."
Son kim	Berkeley, CA	2020-09-12	"I am signing because the Korean studies need to be part of ethnic studies"
Doris Suh	Palo Alto, US	2020-09-12	"Korean American history is US history and it is beneficial for all to learn about the Korean American journey. The more we learn about each other, the richer our lives become."
Jennifer McCartin	Oakland, CA	2020-09-12	"It's important that Korean American experience is included."
joan choi	Fort Lee, NJ	2020-09-12	"This is important for our children 's future."
John Lee	US	2020-09-12	"I'm signing this petition because we need to know of ethnic."
Cliff Gimbert	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-12	"As a direct by-product of the Korean-American relationship, I feel it is important that the Korean-American contributions and history be shared by all."
Sewon Bae	Glendale, CA	2020-09-12	"Sewon Bae"
Jeanette Hernandez	US	2020-09-12	"This petition helps all Californians understand Korean-American experiences."
Senta Scarborough	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-12	"I am signing because we are stronger when we learn about all of us that live and make this country wonderful. Ethnic studies give us a more complete and wider perspective to live, make decisions and take action that make the world a great place for everyone."
jonathan kim	N. Hills, CA	2020-09-12	"I support for this petition because 're all same page for learning each other in our times."
WhanHee Yi	Enumclaw, WA	2020-09-12	"The history of Korean American immigration has been almost 120 years. The number of years cannot be ignored. As people in

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			America, Korean Americans have been through a lot in society and contributed to many essential fields."
Ha Ram Lee	Buena Park, CA	2020-09-12	"I'm an American who comes from Korea and it just makes sense to include the roles Korean Americans have played in the history of this state and nation!"
Rose White	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-12	"I am a retired educator of color who worked with ALL students in CA's demographic during my 47 years in education. The whole notion of leaving anybody out or belittling anyone's contribution to our national history is offensive to me."
Seunghye Bahk	Hacienda Heights, CA	2020-09-12	"It is part of history so it should be included it."
Steve Do	Perris, CA	2020-09-13	"Steve Do"
Goo Lee	Seattle, WA	2020-09-13	"Learning the history is much more valuable than anything else"
Unjung Kim	San Francisco, US	2020-09-13	"Just as a suggestion, it would be very informative to include what the current ethnic studies curriculum is consists of in the conclusion so that we have to compare this lack of inclusion to."
Michael Yi	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-13	"I want Korean's to be included"
SangMi Fahnestock	Hauppauge, NY	2020-09-13	"I'm signing. This is very important matters especially for the Korean people!"
Stacy Shelton	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-13	"It's important!"
Dean Jang	Buena Park, CA	2020-09-13	"Korean history should be taught."
Jennifer Lee	Rolling hills estates, CA	2020-09-13	"Jennifer lee"
Christine Lee	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-13	"As a Korean-American attorney who has been practicing immigration law for the past 40 years, I have observed the contributions Korean- Americans have made to make our community a better America."
Sally Chong	Gardena, CA	2020-09-13	"It's important"
Tammy Kim	Irvine, CA	2020-09-13	"The exclusion of Korean Americans from last year's California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum was unacceptable. We must no longer accept being invisible! The nearly 2 million Korean Americans have been part of the fabric of this country since 1890, when the first Korean became a US Citizen (Philip Jaisohn 서재필). For too long, the Korean American experience has been excluded, despite our contributions to the growth of this country during the 20th century to present. Please ensure that we are included and share this with others you know."
Tammy Kim	Irvine, CA	2020-09-13	"For Koreans to have been left out in the last proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) was completely unacceptable. I am signing this because Korean Americans should no longer accept being invisible. The nearly 2 million Korean Americans have been

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			part of this country since 1890, when the first Korean became a US Citizen (Philip Jaisohn 서재필). Korean Americans have contributed greatly to the foundation and fabric of this country throughout the 20th century. We have shaped the landscape of cities such as Los Angeles, Flushing, NY, Fort Lee, NJ, Palisades Park, NJ, Alexandria, VA, Irvine, CA and so many more. It is critical that students are provided with the knowledge, history, context to fully appreciate the role of Korean Americans in this country."
송 진민	토렌스, CA	2020-09-13	"Jinmin song"
Eunice Kim	La Crescenta, CA	2020-09-13	"I am signing because we would like you to put Korean history into history subject ."
Jungeun Ha	Arcadia, US	2020-09-13	"Koreans history in US is very special."
Woo Jin Lee	Wichita, US	2020-09-13	"I am signing in"
Jee Sun Chung	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-14	"I am signing because it's important to teach the Korean American contribution in the U. S."
Judy Kim	Torrance, CA	2020-09-14	"Judy Kim"
Cathrine Ji	Irvine, CA	2020-09-14	"Because our history in America and contributions matter."
Sunny Kang	Layton, US	2020-09-14	"I am signing because Korean heritage and their patriatic contribution to this country is essential"
Janet Lee	Las Vegas, NV	2020-09-14	"I see the importance of inclusion of Korean culture"
Judy Choi	Anaheim, CA	2020-09-14	"judy choi"
Jinsook Seo	Fullerton, CA	2020-09-14	"This is a really crucial matter for Korean American students who need to build their own identities as Korean Americans in California!"
Jin Yoon	Fullerton, CA	2020-09-14	"It would be great to add this for further generations."
John Mon Yoo	Fullerton, CA	2020-09-14	"It's important that Korean American experience is included."
Mina Yeon	Fullerton, CA	2020-09-14	"Adding the Korean American Studies for children's learning would broaden their understanding about different cultures and respect the differences"
Julisa Nievas-Barajas	Fullerton, CA	2020-09-15	"Inclusion is important"
Jennifer Sobczak	West Palm Beach, FL	2020-09-15	"I am korean American. I feel that my culture is very important, not only for my children but also for others. Every culture is important, ours is no exclusion."
kevin c	inglewood, CA	2020-09-15	"Gangnam style ~"
Sue Kim	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-15	"To be a complete study, one should not leave out. That will be a selective biased study. Leaving out Korean American will result in worthless, incomplete study."

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Younju Seo	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	2020-09-15	"I want to study about Korea!!"
Eung Joon Lee	Rolling Hills Estates, CA	2020-09-15	"This is important to our future generations learn their roots and history."
Kim Sarahkeesook	Los Angeles, CA	2020-09-15	"Sarahkeesook kim"
Abe Kim	Vienna, VA	2020-09-15	"I support Korean American studies and the community is an important part of the American tapestry."
Garrett Shimizu	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	2020-09-16	"Bc all cultures and ethnicities deserve the right to be learned and taught."
Christian Yang	Cherry Hill, NJ	2020-09-16	"Our family immigrated from Korea on Dec 12, 1979 to Los Angeles. Father was a ranking officer of the Korean military. For those that know Korean history 12/12/1979 is a significant date. Our family now resides in NJ but we work hard to pass on as much history as we can. Very important. Such a program exist at USC (alma mater) with a center. Further accessibility would be important course."
Joseph Angel-Field	South Pasadena, CA	2020-09-16	"No one is free until we are all free. Celebrate and educate on cultures, undo genocide."
Katherine Bradtke	Lexington, MA	2020-09-16	"I'm Korean American"
Jessica Kim	Cherry Hill, US	2020-09-17	"Disaggregating Asian Americans in ethnic studies curriculums is a necessary step towards diversity and inclusion. Korean Americans have uniquely shaped every sector, particularly in California."
James Straker	Glendale, AZ	2020-09-17	"Koreans are a distinct cultural group and deserve the attention and scholarship that entails. Period."
Charles Richardson	Malakoff, TX	2020-09-17	"It's important"
Reba Morey	Denver, CO	2020-09-18	"I'm signing because I believe all history and cultures are important. How can we teach future generations compassion and understanding and diversity if we do not broaden their education and views?"
Anna Jeong	Tustin, CA	2020-09-19	"Dear California Department of Education, While it is exciting to see that the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is moving forward and students will have the opportunity to learn about our diverse community, I am deeply concerned that Korean American studies have been excluded.Korean Americans including Kyong Won "K.W." Lee should also be taught about. He is considered the godfather of Asian American journalism, being he was the first Asian American hired by American media. Lee spearheaded the investigation into the Chol Soo Lee case while he worked for the Sacramento Union. K.W. Lee wrote hundreds of articles on the wrongful conviction of Korean American Chol Soo Lee, causing the Free Chol Soo Lee Movement. The demonstrations and protests became the first Pan-Asian movement and resulted in Chol Soo Lee's acquittal. Such a historic case should not be ignored.Angela Oh is another

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			remarkable Korean American who should be taught about. She is an attorney who was appointed to President Bill Clinton's "One"
Sandra Alexander	Sunland, CA	2020-09-19	"it's the right thing to do!"
Ben Choi	San Jose, CA	2020-09-19	"The CA should change how the people study."
Jinhee Park	San Diego, CA	2020-09-19	"Let's make the world a better place."
Gyunwook Kim	Irvine, CA	2020-09-19	"It is very important information for students"
Jessica Lee	San Diego, CA	2020-09-20	"I look forward to educating our kids how much Asian Americans including Korean Americans contributed to our communities and country."
Jaeho Lee	Oakland, CA	2020-09-21	"I am supporting the inclusion of Korean American studies in the state curriculum of ethnic studies."
Sowon Yang	San Jose, CA	2020-09-21	"Now it is a major portion of Korean not only here in San Jose but all over the U.S."
EunMi Cho	Sacramento, CA	2020-09-22	"I am signing because adding Korean-Americans' strong and continuous contribution to California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is to necessary to meet the Social Justice Standards."
미혜 김	Tracy, CA	2020-09-22	"There are many people who know only BTS and do not know the history of Korea. Give me a chance to know Korea."
Suehee Kim	Davis, CA	2020-09-25	"I want to support that the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is moving forward to improve cross cultural understanding."