

From: Pete Haws

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:19 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: [email redacted]; Superintendent

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Arab American Studies should be included

Hello IQC,

As an eighteen year veteran high school social studies teacher, I implore you to stand up to conservative interests that are trying to exclude Muslim and Palestinian interests from the ethnic studies curriculum. Our Muslim students do not have powerful lobbies to fight for them, so I encourage you to justly support their interests. Many Muslims face discrimination already. Arab-Americans deserve a voice!

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while controversial, is significant in understanding the history of the Middle East and the War on Terror. Because the topic is dominated by biased information, it is even more important that objective classrooms explore the different perspectives. It is not Anti-Semitic to consider the actions of Israel and the Palestinians.

Please include Arab American perspectives, including on Palestine in the Asian American framework. Thank you,

Charles Haws