

From: William Cerruti
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 7:29 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: Add Italian Americans in Ethnic curriculum

FROM: The California Italian American Task Force and The Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento

TO: Dept of Education/ Ethnic Studies Curriculum

SUBJECT: Adding Italian Americans To The Ethnic Studies Curriculum

On behalf of the California Italian American Task Force, a Statewide California Italian American Commission created by the California Legislature to represent the concerns of the Italian American population of California, we are requesting that the Italian American experience be added to the proposed ethnic studies curriculum.

Italian Americans are a distinct and important ethnic group in California and in the United States. The contributions of Italian Americans to the development of California and the United States have been enormous yet are often and mostly unrecognized. California school children learn about the experiences of other ethnic groups in the school room but the Italian American experience is not included in their educational experience. As a result, California school children are uninformed about the significant role Italian Americans have played in their history. Instead, most Californians rely on prejudicial and negative images of Italian Americans as depicted in the media and in society in general. To overcome this historic prejudice against Italian Americans it is vital that their story be included in the California Ethnic Studies Curriculum.

The story of California and the United States is incomplete without telling the Italian American story. The Ethnic Studies Curriculum would

be incomplete and discriminatory toward Italian Americans if they too are not included.

On behalf of the Italian American community of California we are requesting that the new Ethnic Studies Curriculum, as proposed, be revised to include the Italian American collective ethnic experience.

We are available to meet with the Department of Education to submit revisions to the proposed curriculum.

William Cerruti, Chair, California Italian American Task Force, and,

Executive director, Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento.