

As a licensed high school English teacher, I am writing to object to the mandatory nature of the Ethnic Studies Bill AB 331, as well as the important fact that it slights the experiences—both in the past and, unfortunately, also in the present-- of Jewish people. As the Calif. Legislative Jewish Caucus wrote, "It would be a cruel irony if a curriculum meant to help alleviate prejudice and bigotry were instead to marginalize Jewish students and fuel hatred and discrimination against the Jewish community." I also refer you to today's Op Ed by Dan Walters, "State's ethnic studies political time bomb explodes." I do think there is value in many parts of the curriculum (which I read, by the way), but there was no mention that I could find of the fine work done, for example, by the exemplary program "Facing History and Ourselves," used very successfully by many high school districts in the country. I hope the bill will be re-examined and amended before it is too late!

Sincerely,  
Judith William