



August 13th, 2019

Soomin Chao
Chair, Instructional Quality Commission
California Department of Education
Ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov

RE: Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Dear Chairwoman Chao,

This letter confirms our submission of a letter of complaint, following our review of the proposed Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), which we are delivering on behalf of more than 13,000 concerned community members.

Founded in Los Angeles in 2007, the Israeli American Council (IAC) serves hundreds of thousands of Israeli-Americans and Jewish Americans in more than 62 communities through its 20 regional offices nationwide, four of which are located in California. We are active on more than 100 campuses nationwide.

Israeli-Americans are an integral part of a thriving Jewish American community in California, with an estimated 300,000 residing in the state.

Our community holds grave concerns about the Draft 2020 Ethnic Studies Curriculum, which must undergo significant changes to ensure that students and teachers are educated about different forms of hatred in a way that is inclusive of the Jewish People, recognizing our place as an ethnic minority in the United States. **In this respect, the reference to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement must be removed along with the biased and politicized references to Israel.**

As outlined in our detailed review, the ESMC, as written, would turn our public schools into a hostile environment for Jewish American, Israeli American and Zionist students. It would institutionalize discrimination against an entire immigrant minority, based on their national origin and ethnicity. I am sure the committee would agree that this is neither the purpose of ESMC nor the values of the State of California.

We ask the DOE to completely remove the document as soon as possible from its website until this curriculum is updated. This document has already legitimized hate and discrimination, and may inspire more.

While we respect the process of public discussion around this proposal, we are deeply concerned about the safety of our children and all Jewish students, who would undoubtedly face harassment, bullying and discrimination in the classroom if this narrative is introduced, particularly at a time of rising anti-Semitism nationwide, and particularly in California.

The IAC stands ready to assist in the work of improving this curriculum to ensure that it is inclusive. We would welcome the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can work together in this effort.

Sincerely,

Shoham Nicolet



Chief Executive Officer

Israeli American Council (IAC)

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CC:

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Honorable Jose Medina, Assembly member

The Honorable Ben Allen, State Senator, IQC member

The Honorable Jessie Gabriel, Assembly member

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, Assembly member

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the California State Board of Education

Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Director, Instructional Quality Commission