

From: Susan George

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:49 AM

To: Superintendent; Ethnic Studies; Shanine Coats; Stephanie Gregson; IQC

Subject: Appendix Language Comments

November 14, 2020

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

Chief Deputy Superintendent Stephanie Gregson

Instructional Quality Commission Executive Director Shanine Coats

Instructional Quality Commission Members

Re: Comment on Appendix Language

Dear State Superintendent Thurmond, Chief Deputy Superintendent Gregson, IQC Executive Director Coats, and all Members of the IQC:

Progressive Zionists of California supports the California Department of Education (CDE) [recommendations](#) to revise and clarify the state's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) which align with our efforts to better inform the CDE about antisemitism and the diversity of the Jewish community.

We urge the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to adopt the proposed changes introduced last week with the focus on the four core groups, while also including the proposed appendices.

1. We strongly support the inclusion of Sikh-Americans, Armenian-Americans, and other minority communities. We encourage the CDE to meaningfully include the appendix as an integral part of the model curriculum, and distribute it with the same intentionality as the rest of the curriculum.
2. We continue to support the inclusion of the full IHRA definition of antisemitism and continued conversation with mainstream Jewish communal institutions, which want to help educators to understand antisemitism. The IHRA definition has been widely adopted by the international Jewish community for its comprehensiveness. As progressives, we know that marginalized communities must define and explain how oppression impacts us.
3. We urge you to reject pressure from fringe anti-Israel groups who are attempting to undo progress regarding these recommendations. As [our previous letter](#) explained, anti-Zionist voices are not representative of the Jewish community, nor are they acting in good faith to stop antisemitism. Contrary to their claims — the framing of Arab Americans is finally inclusive of the entire region. The appendix language does not replicate the oppressive hierarchies present in the Middle East.

We thank you all for your hard work and commitment to making this model curriculum reflective of the many communities who live in California. This draft is finally on its way to fulfilling the core call of inclusion and education of AB 2016.

Please contact me at [Phone Redacted], or email [Email Redacted], if you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Susan George

