

From: tedminster

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 4:35 PM

To: Shanine Coats

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save ethnic studies – don't shut out Arab-American experience

Dear Instructional Quality Commission Shanine Coats,

I'm a constituent of yours and deeply concerned with reports that Arab American Studies may be cut from California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), under the false premise of it not being within the four racialized groups of Ethnic Studies.

The field's leaders of color, including the Association of Asian American Studies, Asian American Studies Department Chairs, and the Save CA Ethnic Studies Coalition – are insisting Arab American Studies belongs in the curriculum, and that it remain.

As is evident in the spirit of AB2016 legislation, the California Department of Education must respect communities of color, and have deference to Ethnic Studies professors and practitioners of color for this project.

Efforts to undermine or water-down any critical components of the draft, and of Ethnic Studies as a field must be rejected.

Exclusion of Arab immigrants, the stories of assimilation, resilience, diligence, resistance to discrimination, their building of active relationships internally & outwardly with others in the making of California ...would be an act of specific exclusion.

Literature & documentation...on Mexicans, Armenians, African Americans, Chinese, Filipinos.. are necessarily part of the tapestry of the history of this state.

Assimilationist histories already "leave out" too many.... Sikhs....among a few...

A curriculum that allows exclusion would indicate that it is permitted to exclude a population from the tapestry of California.

Such exclusion would be more than "inappropriate.."..

I know you are well-aware of the targeted attacks on Arabs and Muslims by the Trump administration, and the demonization of the struggle of migrants and people of color throughout the United States. As a sanctuary state, California should continue to be a counterweight against that trend – not serve as a stamp of approval.

Please add your voices to inclusion of Arabs & Arab Americans ...and please, do not bow to convenient pressure to exclude them from the California curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Edminster
Pacifica, CA