

From: Barry Yelen
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft

To the attention of Soomin Chao via email at ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov

This is in reference to any Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft which is being considered by many California school boards. The board members, as I understand things, are not either being made aware of or are not being sufficiently made aware of the fact that these curriculums would reinforce negative stereotypes about Jews, would single out Israel for criticism and would further institutionalize the teaching of anti-semitic stereotypes in our public schools. It would be a curriculum that erases the American Jewish experience, and it would fail to discuss anti-Semitism. On the contrary, it would emphasize and encourage anti-semitism. It is bad enough that there is so much unjustified anti-semitic feelings going around, but for our schools to take a direct, positive part in furthering these unfair, prejudicial attitudes - this should not happen. What our children are taught in schools and what they are subjected to is what they will naturally think, feel, and believe is OK and acceptable. This Draft is not OK nor acceptable. The school boards must be made aware of what this Draft really is about and really what its goal is. It is dangerous to America, to American values and ideals, and should not be allowed to be in our school systems.

Sincerely submitted,

Barry A. Yelen, Esq.