

The California Department of Education received more than 6,000 submissions that contained the text below. Other identical comments may have been posted separately.

From: Tereza Kazanjian

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:58 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Add Armenian - American history in ethnic studies curriculum

Tereza Kazanjian
[address redacted]
Woodland Hills, CA

August 25, 2020

Dear California Department of Education,

I call on the CDE to hear the voices of Armenian Californians and reflect our histories and experiences in California public education. Scholars estimate Armenian-Americans represent up to 500,000 people in California, with the greatest population of Armenians outside of Armenia residing in California.

I write to you today firmly in support of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, the calls of Asian American scholars to include West Asian American Studies, and the inclusion of Armenian-Americans within that curriculum.

The students in California do not currently see themselves and their experiences reflected in curricula. Armenian-Americans have long histories of racialization, immigration, refugeehood, as well as legal, educational and linguistic marginalization. Ethnic Studies helps young students make sense of their realities. Our students deserve "culturally/community relevant and responsive pedagogies that are both revitalizing and sustaining" (ESMC 2).

Don't cut us out. I urge you to hear community voices calling for the inclusion of West Asian American experiences within Ethnic Studies, and the necessity of Armenian-American histories within that experience.

Sincerely,
Tereza Kazanjian