

From: Nora Abedelal
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:32 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Cc: Superintendent
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Arab American Studies as Ethnic Studies

Hello,

I am writing in support of Arab-American studies as ethnic studies, and for the ethnic studies curriculum to remain as is. I am a proud product of California public education, both as a K-12 student and as a graduate of UC Davis. I support ethnic studies more broadly, Arab-American studies, and the inclusion of Palestinian-American movements.

Arab-Americans have contributed to larger fights for civil rights, but our contributions are invisible. We are often stereotyped as politically conservative, and this curriculum would challenge the narrative that we are a homogenous people with uniform ideas.

Furthermore, Palestinian-American movements must remain on the curriculum. The U.S. gives \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel per year. Many have criticized the U.S.-Israeli relationship, as there is significant evidence which shows that the treatment of Palestinians is connected to a larger military and police industrial complex. Palestinians and Arabs have been involved in many movements for equity and justice, and have contributed to the field of ethnic studies massively. Our contributions deserve to be recognized, and our youth deserve to learn about and be proud of their identity.

I urge you to vote yes in support of Arab-American studies, and include Palestine as part of that ethnic studies. Any revisions about Arabs must be done alongside Arab-American scholars, and organizations which directly work with our communities. We, like other communities of color, are seeking to regain control over our narratives and history, and see the necessity of empowering representation.

All best,
Nora Abedelal