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**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF DALY CITY**

**333 – 90TH STREET
DALY CITY, CA 94015-1895**

SHAWNNA MALTBIE
CITY MANAGER

K. ANNETTE HIPONA
CITY CLERK

DANCA M. HALVORSON
CITY TREASURER

PHONE (650) 991-8008

May 19, 2020

Hello Trustees,

As a fellow elective official, I write this letter to urge you to support the model Ethnic Studies curriculum for the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD). I come from an Ethnic Studies background that allowed me to learn about my history, identity, and how it has informed my purpose to serve my community. Ethnic Studies gave me a lens to understand my identity of being a child of Filipino immigrants; the legacy of labor organizers; the understanding of how racism, gender and sexuality, and class affects our society. I have mentored thousands of students to become Ethnic Studies teachers and leaders in the Bay Area and abroad over the past two decades through my organization, the Pin@y Educational Partnerships (PEP) and as an Instructor at Skyline College. It has widened my scope to serve communities beyond a charity standpoint, but to cultivate a community to become agents of change.

You are in place of leadership to take the historical step to institutionalize Ethnic Studies in California. Ethnic Studies has transformed the lives of my community, my students, and family to understand that they are part of the curriculum and are authors of history. On February 27, 2020, I strongly endorsed the passage of Ethnic Studies in my home district, Jefferson Elementary School District (JESD) in Daly City, CA. Our board unanimously passed a resolution to become the first elementary and middle school district to implement Ethnic Studies in the nation. I hope you will join us, and the growing list of districts in CA, to pass the model Ethnic Studies curriculum for your community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roderick Daus-Magbual
Council Member
City of Daly City