

**From:** Therese Kelleghan

**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 12:24 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Cc:** Superintendent; [emails redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] INCLUDE ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES IN CA ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULUM!

I am a Special Education teacher. I support:

***Arab American studies within the rubric of Asian American studies.***

- in this era of Islamophobia and xenophobia, it's important to include West Asian American experiences in the ESMC.***
- that the history and current struggles in Palestine be included.***
- it is not antisemitic to defend human rights, and include Palestinian history and current movements in ethnic studies.***
- that revisions that affect Arab American studies should be made in collaboration with Arab American scholars and Ethnic Studies practitioners.***

With the racial disparities in effects of Covid 19, the demonization of Asian Americans as "vectors" of disease, and the national uprising against anti-Black state violence, critical Ethnic Studies curriculum is more urgent than ever. To exclude Arab American Studies from Ethnic Studies is not only a form of censorship, it undermines unity and solidarity at the core of anti-racist teaching.

Sincerely,

Therese Kelleghan