

From: Ruth Parker

Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 3:22 PM

To: [list of other recipients redacted]; Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: JIMENA Voice - Join JIMENA in thanking Governor Newsom

The JIMENA curriculum is vital to counteract the false narrative that Jews are not indigenous to the middle east. There have been Jewish communities in the middle east for 3,000 years, and any Department of Middle East Studies or Ethnic Studies which refuses to include this history is promoting antisemitism and deserves to be sanctioned for this.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: JIMENA

To: "[email redacted]"

Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020, 01:47:04 PM PDT

Subject: JIMENA Voice - Join JIMENA in thanking Governor Newsom



JOIN US IN THANKING GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Earlier this week, [Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 331](#) which would have required an unfinished draft of California's Ethnic Study Model Curriculum to become a high school graduation requirement. JIMENA shares Governor Newsom's concerns and we are grateful for his leadership in ensuring the curriculum is improved before voting to make it a graduation requirement.

JIMENA continues to play a critical role in urging the State of California to consider the needs of Jewish students while developing their Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. We are proud that in this last period of public comment to the California Department of Education (CDE), over 5,800 members of the public asked them to include the stories and experiences of our Jewish Middle Eastern American communities.

This morning, JIMENA's Executive Director, Sarah Levin noted to the [Los Angeles Times](#) that, "JIMENA wants to see the curriculum include 'balance in its portrayal' of Middle Eastern communities and 'equitable representation' for other groups, such as Iranian Americans, Kurdish Americans, and Mizrahi Jews... The curriculum should include a lesson plan on anti-Semitism."

JIMENA will continue to ask the CDE to include our updated lesson plan, “Antisemitism and Jewish Middle Eastern Americans” in the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. This lesson plan focuses on the lived experiences of Mizrahi Jews in California, many of whom hold intersectional identities as immigrants, refugees, Middle Easterners, people of color, and as Jewish individuals who have experienced antisemitism and marginalization.

As antisemitism rises and is the most prevalent religious-based hate crime in the USA and California (68% of California's total for 2% of its population) it is essential for our students to gain knowledge and understanding of who Jewish Americans are and how we are impacted by this dangerous form of bigotry.

We thank you for signing and supporting JIMENA's petition to elevate the experiences and voices of Mizrahi Jews and of other Middle Eastern American minority groups. JIMENA will continue to advocate for our four core principles for a strong Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum and we encourage you to join us thanking Governor Newsom for his leadership on this important issue.