

94 Organizations Call for Safeguards Against Political Indoctrination When Revising CA Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Sent Via Email on August 19, 2019

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond
State Board President
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Darling-Hammond,

We are 94 civil rights, human rights, religious and education organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members and supporters, many of them residents of California.

Most of our organizations were signatories on a [8/7/19](#) letter to IQC Chairperson Chao. Our letter noted that although our groups were deeply concerned about the original draft curriculum's omission of information about American Jews and anti-Semitism, its use of classic anti-Semitic tropes and its blatant anti-Israel bias, we viewed these problems with the curriculum's content as symptoms of a much larger and far more serious problem affecting not only Jewish students but all students in the state. Our key issue was the fact that its drafters were given free rein to use this model curriculum as a tool for political indoctrination in the first place. We stated that merely revising or re-writing the curriculum would be insufficient; it would treat the symptoms without curing the underlying illness. That is why in our original letter we urged the establishment of safeguards to ensure that this model curriculum, and all state-sponsored curricula and other instructional materials, may never be hijacked as tools of political indoctrination that promote hatred and incite harm against any race, religion, group or individual.

We were therefore pleased to see that in your recent public [statement](#) you noted that a model curriculum should be "free of bias" and suggested that this is one of the areas in which the current draft model curriculum "falls short and needs to be substantially redesigned." Now that the period for public comments has ended and the hard work of overhauling the model curriculum has begun, we believe it is critically important that you immediately amend the [Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Guidelines](#) to include a warning that those involved with the drafting of the curriculum may not use it as a tool for political indoctrination. If this is not possible, we ask that you immediately issue a public statement affirming that the Board of Education will ensure that the model curriculum it approves in March 2020 will be free of political indoctrination and will not promote hatred or incite harm against any race, religion, group or individual.

Either of these steps would go a long way towards regaining the public's trust that the initial draft model curriculum has seriously eroded to date.

Thank you,

Academic Council for Israel
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)
Alums for Campus Fairness - National
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside
Alums for Campus Fairness - UCLA
AMCHA Initiative
America Israel Cooperative Enterprise
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
American Institute for Jewish Research
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish International Relations Institute
American Truth Project
American Values
American Zionist Movement
Americans Fighting Antisemitism
Americans for Peace and Tolerance
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)
B'nai B'rith International
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources
Bobcats for Israel at Ohio University
Boston Israel Action Committee
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
Bulldogs for Israel (Brooklyn College)
California Association of Scholars
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore
Christians and Jews United for Israel
Club Z
Coalition for Jewish Values
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
Conference of Jewish Affairs
Congregation Beth El Israel Committee
Dartmouth Students for Israel
Davis Faculty for Israel
Eagles Wings
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)
Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors

Hasbara Fellowships
Herut North America, U.S. Division
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel
Iranian American Jewish Federation
Iranian Jewish Women's Organization
Israel in NYC
Israel Matters
Israel on Campus Coalition
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)
Israeli-American Civic Action Network
Israeli-American Civic Education Institute
Israeli-American Council (IAC)
JAM
Jewish American Affairs Committee of Indiana
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)
Legal Insurrection Foundation
Librarians for Fairness
Middle East Forum
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)
National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel
National Council of Young Israel
NCSY
NH4Israel
North Carolina Coalition for Israel
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Rabbinical Alliance of America
Rhode Island Coalition for Israel
Russian Jewish Community Foundation
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East
Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America
Simon Wiesenthal Center
StandWithUs
StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department
Stop Anti-Semitism Now
Stop BDS on Campus
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism
Students Supporting Israel at Chapman University
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia
Students Supporting Israel at Drake University
Students Supporting Israel at San Jose State University
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA
Students Supporting Israel at Wake Forest University

Students Supporting Israel National
Swarthmore Alumni Against Antisemitism on Campus
The Israel Christian Nexus
The Israel Group
The Lawfare Project
The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Tufts Friends of Israel
WoMen Fight Antisemitism
World Jewish Congress North America
Young Jewish Conservatives
Zachor Legal Institute
Zionist Organization of America
ZOA's Fuel for Truth

CC: Soomin Chao, Chair Instructional Quality Commission
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director of the California State Board of Education
Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Director, Instructional Quality Commission, and Deputy
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Performance, Planning & Technology Branch
Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Teaching & Learning
Support Branch
California Senator Ben Allen, Member, Instructional Quality Commission, and Chair,
California Legislative Jewish Caucus
California Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Member, Instructional Quality Commission
and Chair of the State Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate
California Senator Connie M. Leyva, Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Education
California Assemblymember Jose Medina, Chair, State Assembly Committee on Higher
Education
California Legislative Jewish Caucus
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
California Governor Gavin Newsom
California Deputy Cabinet Secretary Office of the Governor Jamie Callahan