

## 4,000 Members and Supporters of the Jewish Community Second Letter to California Legislative Jewish Caucus

July 15, 2021

Dear Members of the Legislative Jewish Caucus,

We are members and supporters of the CA Jewish community. Many of us [wrote](#) to you last month outlining the clear dangers of AB 101 for Jewish students and the Jewish community and urging you to oppose this dangerous bill. We were therefore deeply disappointed that not only did every Legislative Jewish Caucus Assemblymember vote in favor of AB 101, but Caucus Chair Jesse Gabriel even made a speech on the Assembly floor that spoke about the bill in glowing terms and belittled concerns about antisemitism that were shared by a non-Jewish Assemblymember -- extremely serious, well-documented concerns that had been raised in our own letter to you as well as by 75 Jewish, Christian, civil rights and education organizations, who had [written](#) to the entire Assembly.

In our recent letter to you, we explained that AB 101, which allows for the use of any curriculum approved by local school boards, makes it likely that the overtly anti-Jewish, anti-Zionist, BDS-promoting first draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), or an even more extreme '[Liberated](#)' curriculum being vigorously peddled by activist educators who wrote the first rejected draft, will find its way into many if not most ethnic studies classrooms in the state. Recalling that in 2019 the Legislative Jewish Caucus [took the lead](#) in opposing the antisemitic first draft of the ESMC, we urged caucus members to stand up once again on behalf of the California Jewish community and actively oppose AB 101.

Several recent and alarming developments make it even more evident that AB 101 poses a serious threat to Jewish students and the Jewish community and must be opposed:

- **Skyrocketing Global Antisemitism:** As [antisemitism](#) spirals out of control, with Jews being viciously assaulted and synagogues vandalized by anti-Zionist activists in cities across Europe and throughout the U.S., including Los Angeles, it is abundantly clear that passing a bill requiring California high school students to take a course explicitly based on the antisemitic, anti-Zionist discipline of Critical Ethnic Studies can't help but incite further animus, hostility and violence directed at Jewish students and the Jewish community in our state.
- **CA Teachers Unions Endorse BDS:** In May, United Educators of San Francisco, the union representing all K-12 teachers in the SF Unified School District, passed a [resolution](#) that officially endorsed "the international campaign for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against apartheid in Israel" and further stated, "[A]s public school educators in the United States of America, we have a special responsibility to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people because of the 3.8 billion dollars annually that the US government gives to Israel, thus directly using our

tax dollars to fund apartheid and war crimes.” At the same time, chapter chairs of United Teachers Los Angeles, the state’s largest teachers union, passed an almost identical [resolution](#) endorsing the BDS movement. A significant portion of the state’s teachers belong to one of these two unions, and while not all teachers will agree with the virulently anti-Israel, pro-BDS resolutions that their unions have adopted, many will, including most K-12 ethnic studies teachers, who have been trained in university departments that embrace the antisemitic, anti-Zionist Critical Ethnic Studies framework, and will now feel emboldened by their union to bring such bigotry into their classrooms.

- **UC Ethnic Studies Departments Issue Anti-Zionist Statements:** Several UC departments responsible for educating many of the students who will teach ethnic studies in K-12 classrooms have issued or endorsed highly politicized, virulently anti-Israel statements firmly rooted in the anti-Zionist ideology of Critical Ethnic Studies, that falsely accuse Israel of being a “settler colonial,” “apartheid” state and call for or endorse BDS. These include: UC Berkeley’s [Department of Ethnic Studies](#); UCLA’s [Asian American Studies Department](#); UC Davis’ [Departments](#) of Asian American Studies, African American and African Studies, and American Studies; and UC Santa Cruz’s Department of [Critical Race and Ethnic Studies](#). On at least one of those campuses, the departmental statements have been linked to antisemitic harassment. For example, at a recent UCSC student government meeting, after anti-Zionist activists [praised](#) the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies departmental statement, virulently antisemitic messages were [posted](#) on the meeting’s chat platform that included, “u filthy kike HEIL HITLER BURN ALL JEWS” and “f\*ck all Jews they belong in the oven.” This is the dangerous antisemitic toxicity we expect will enter our K-12 classrooms if AB 101 becomes law.
- **Local School Board Adopts Antisemitic 'Liberated' Curriculum:** In June, California’s Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a new \$40 million ethnic studies policy. In its [press release](#), the district noted, “The policy and efforts to develop an Ethnic Studies framework are informed by and **will include Critical Race Theory and the Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.**” While HUSD was the first school district to publicly commit to adopting and implementing the antisemitic 'Liberated' curriculum, other school districts in California are set to follow suit.

We want to reiterate that the so-called “guardrails” of AB 101, which merely restate an anti-discrimination statute in the education code that has never been successfully used to protect Jewish students from anti-Zionist-motivated harassment, are meaningless in the face of the kind of antisemitism that Jewish students are experiencing today.

**Anyone who understands the threats that are currently facing the Jewish community can understand why AB 101, as well-intentioned as it may be, will unleash a torrent of anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist sentiment, hostility and aggression into classrooms throughout the state if it becomes law. The vast majority of California Jews understand this. As the CA Senate stands poised to vote on AB 101, please stand up and oppose this bill. There is still time to do the right thing.**

Thank you,

*3,043 California residents and nearly 1,000 other supporters of the California Jewish community.*

**Representing California Residents from 42 Counties (72% of California's 58 Counties):**

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Amador County  
Butte County  
Calaveras County  
Colusa County  
Contra Costa County  
Del Norte County  
El Dorado County  
Fresno County  
Glenn County  
Humboldt County  
Imperial County  
Kern County  
Kings County  
Lassen County  
Los Angeles County  
Madera County  
Marin County  
Mendocino County  
Merced County  
Monterey County

Napa County  
Nevada County  
Orange County  
Placer County  
Riverside County  
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San Diego County  
San Francisco County  
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