

Thousands of Californians Petition Governor Newsom to VETO AB 101

September 27, 2021

Dear Honorable Governor Newsom,

We are members and supporters of the California Jewish community who are deeply concerned about the enormously harmful impact that AB 101, the ethnic studies graduation requirement bill, will have on Jewish students and the Jewish community if it becomes law, and **we strongly urge you to veto AB 101.**

Despite new 'guardrail' language, AB 101 does not, and by law cannot, prevent a school district from adopting the overtly antisemitic first draft or an even more extreme "Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum" (LESMC) from being peddled to school districts by the first-draft's authors. The "Liberated" curriculum includes overtly anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist lessons and explicitly promotes student engagement in actions to harm Israel, especially BDS.

Endorsed by the state's largest teachers' unions as well as by ethnic studies departments and faculty on CSU and UC campuses, the LESMC group has already had success in promoting their "Liberated" curriculum and consulting services throughout the state, including at Hayward, Santa Cruz, Jefferson, Salinas, San Francisco and San Diego high schools.

If AB 101 becomes law, hundreds of districts will have to quickly decide which curriculum to adopt as the basis for the new requirement. Although the bill encourages adoption of the SBE-approved ESMC and requires local school districts to publicly vet any ethnic studies curriculum other than the state-approved ESMC, the reality is that many, if not most, districts will still prefer the highly problematic "Liberated" curriculum because of its overwhelming support from the state's major teachers' unions and higher education community, as well as the successful efforts of the LESMC group to create pathways for teacher training and professional development using their antisemitic curriculum.

The Jewish community is simply not capable of challenging such an antisemitic curriculum in every one of the hundreds of school districts where it will likely be considered, and it is a moral outrage to expect Jewish parents to fight against antisemitism being taught to their children in a state-mandated course.

In light of this reality, a bill that facilitates the widespread adoption of overtly antisemitic curricula in fulfillment of the mandated graduation requirement directly threatens the safety and well-being of California Jewish students and the Jewish community.

We strongly urge you to VETO AB 101.

Sincerely,

**The undersigned 2,972 members and supporters of the California Jewish community,
including *2,110 California residents:**

[Names removed in online version]