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Assembly California Legislature



COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
REVENUE AND TAXATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS

August 12, 2019

Ms. Soomin Chao
Chair, Instructional Quality Commission
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairwoman Chao and Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

Along with many of my colleagues in the California State Legislature, thousands of Californians and numerous organizations, I am extremely concerned with the current draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC).

This draft concerns me for several reasons:

- 1) The omission of Jews as an ethnic group and of anti-Semitism as a form of bias and prejudice.
- 2) The negative stereotypes of Jews and Israel.
- 3) The inclusion of, and support for, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which presents a single, divisive viewpoint on a complex issue.
- 4) The definition of capitalism as a system of oppression.

I support the detailed comments submitted by the Institute for Curriculum Services and the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, as well the concerns shared by the California Legislative Jewish and LGBT caucuses. We want to prepare California pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for the contributions of multiple cultures.

Quality education is a top priority for me as a California State Representative and Ethnic Studies is of vital importance. I am in full support of the inclusion of Ethnic Studies curriculum with the goal of alleviating prejudice and bigotry and supporting inclusion, empathy and critical thinking. I urge the Committee to revise and re-evaluate the current proposed curriculum to address the concerns detailed above. These revisions are critical to the ESMC's ability to meet its own standards of equity, inclusiveness and universally high expectations.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 916-319-2074.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Petrie-Norris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cottie Petrie-Norris
Assemblywoman, 74th District

cc: Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction