

Letter to Governor Newsom from 170 CA High School Students and Parents

September 20, 2021

RE: 170 CA High School Students and Parents Urge VETO of AB 101

Dear Honorable Governor Newsom,

High school students are already experiencing antisemitism in the classroom. We should know: We are 170 California high school students and parents who will be directly and negatively impacted if you pass AB 101, the ethnic studies graduation requirement bill that enables the adoption of antisemitic curricula. **We strongly urge you to VETO AB 101.**

This bill will sanction the hounding of Zionist students in high schools across the state and encourage similar behavior across the nation. Zionism is integral to our Jewish identity and we are alarmed that this bill will institutionalize anti-Zionism, a dangerous form of antisemitism.

Despite new 'guardrail' language, AB 101 does not, and by law cannot, prevent a school district from adopting the 'Liberated' curriculum being developed by the authors of the rejected first-draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), which includes overtly anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist lessons and explicitly promotes student engagement in BDS.

If this bill becomes law, we will very likely be forced to endure this antisemitism in our high schools.

Although the bill encourages adoption of the state-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 prefer the antisemitic "Liberated" curriculum over the state-approved version due to support for it from the state's major teacher's unions and the higher education community, as well as the success of "Liberated" proponents to create pathways for teacher training and professional development using their antisemitic curriculum.

We do not want to be forced into the position of fighting the adoption of such an antisemitic curriculum by our school districts. It is shameful of you to expect us to do so!

We strongly urge you to VETO AB 101.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned 170 California High School Students and Parents of Students