

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2772 (Medina): Pupil instruction: ethnic studies. - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support AB 2771 (Medina) which would add the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies, in either the subject of social studies or English, based on the model curriculum in ethnic studies developed by the Instructional Quality Commission, to the high school graduation requirements commencing with the 2023–24 school year. The bill would authorize local educational agencies to require a full-year course in ethnic studies at their discretion.

Ethnic studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that encompasses many subject areas, including: history, literature, economics, sociology, and political science, among others. It offers an in-depth comparative study of the history, politics, culture, contributions, challenges, and current status of ethnic groups in the United States. The County believes it is important for students to learn the national origins of ethnic groups and their transnational linkages.

Currently the California Department of Education (CDE) is conducting webinars to gather public input on the 2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum project. The project asks for input on what kinds of course outlines should be included in the model curriculum. Currently, school districts are encouraged to offer ethnic studies, but it is not required.

For these reasons, we urge your Aye vote on AB 1886 (Carrillo).

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Jose Medina, California State Assembly  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly  
California State Association of Counties