

May 11, 2021

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

Subject: AB 101 (Medina), as amended April 14, 2021
Position: Co-Sponsor
Location: Suspense File

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California Teachers Association (CTA) is pleased to co-sponsor Assembly Bill 101 by Assemblymember Jose Medina. The bill adds the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies to the state high school graduation requirements, commencing with students graduating in the 2029–30 school year and requires local educational agencies, including charter schools, to offer an ethnic studies course commencing with the 2025–26 school year to students to satisfy the ethnic studies graduation requirement by completing one of four authorized course options.

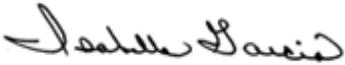
AB 101 is key to promoting respect and understanding among races, supporting student academic success, and teaching lifetime critical thinking skills for the 21st century. The measure strengthens student access to quality ethnic studies courses free of bias and discrimination and celebrating cultural diversity, inherent to human and civil rights.

CTA believes curricula should address the common values of the society, promote respect for diversity and cooperation, and prepare the learner to compete in and cope with a complex and rapidly evolving society. AB 101 improves curricula by widening cultural awareness and strengthening student knowledge of the foundational ideal of equality upon which democracy is built.

AB 101 is necessary to ensure California celebrates diversity by teaching an inclusive curriculum of our cultures and backgrounds, enabling students to be more engaged and informed members of our communities, especially in the study of racial justice and equity.

For these reasons, the California Teachers Association respectfully urges passing AB 101 (Medina) off the Assembly Committee on Appropriation's Suspense File on May 20, 2021.

Sincerely,



Isabelle Garcia
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jose Medina

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