



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Governor's Office  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 101 (Medina) Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies  
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our OPPOSITION to AB 101 (Medina), and respectfully request that you VETO this legislation when it comes before your desk. AB 101 would require students, commencing with the graduating class of 2029-30, to complete a one-semester course in ethnic studies to receive a high school diploma and would require, commencing with the 2025–26 school year, that local educational agencies (LEAs) and charter schools serving students in grades nine through twelve offer at least a one-semester course in ethnic studies. Recent amendments make these requirements subject to an appropriation of funds through budget action or legislation in future years. These amendments do not change our position.

Although AB 101 recommends that school districts adopt the final State Board of Education-approved Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) as the basis for required courses, we are concerned AB 101 would allow for the use of any curriculum approved by an individual school district, even the inflammatory, overtly antisemitic first draft of the ESMC. The first draft of the ESMC was widely criticized for including politicized and divisive principles of Critical Ethnic Studies, a discipline that promotes antisemitic portrayals of Jewish Americans as racially privileged oppressors and Israel as a settler colonial, apartheid oppressor state.

The City of Beverly Hills has a history of condemning Anti-Semitic behavior, including adoption of resolutions to oppose the United Nations Resolution to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Additionally, the City passed a resolution in 2016 to support Assembly Bill 2844 (Bloom), which required companies that contract

with state and local agencies to certify that they do not engage in discriminatory boycotts against foreign countries, including the nation and people of Israel. More recently, our city condemned Airbnb for their pro-BDS actions taken against Israel.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully request that you VETO this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange