



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Jose Medina  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 331 – as amended July 3, 2019 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Medina

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 331 which would add a semester-long course in ethnic studies to the list of statewide high school graduation requirements beginning the 2024-2025 school year.

California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation. Given California's diversity, it is important that students build knowledge of the various racial and ethnic groups in the state. Incorporating ethnic studies courses into standard high school curriculum is a means to accomplish this.

Ethnic studies concentrates on the experiences of various ethnic minorities and the ways in which their experiences were impacted by the issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and the interaction among different ethnic groups. Ethnic studies, promotes respect, inclusion and understanding among races and provides students with the opportunity to learn about their respective culture in the context of California's history.

Requiring ethnic studies to be taught in high schools is an integral part of cultivating a classroom environment that is accepting of diversity. AB 331 provides an opportunity to help students recognize the histories, contributions and perspectives of ethnic minorities.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 331. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Curt Hagman  
Fourth District Supervisor  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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