

Dear Committee Members:

I want to express my deepest support of our local children to be educated on these important issues. As someone raised in this valley, I can personally attest that this is missing from the curriculum and deeply affects racism in the valley. Lack of education and diversity were influential in the reasons that I left this valley. After living in Southern California for the last 10 years I have returned to the valley with my children and therefore my concerns are amplified. My hope is that this generation of parents and educators can work together to do better than the past generations. My two sons (ages 9 and 8) and my daughter (4 years old) deserve the truth. They deserve the chance to do better. They deserve to understand the wrongs of our past, to understand institutional racism and how deeply engrained it is in our society. They deserve to learn anti-racism skills so that they are able to formulate corresponding anti-racist policies, ideas, and acts. This generation is personally responsible for becoming more ethical than the society we grew up in and this bill could help elevate the ethical standards.

Thank you,

Justina Lara