

Submitter: Louise Nardi
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB421

I oppose SB 421 because it does not promote unity but instead heightens discrimination.

It seems the preponderance of applicant criteria is based on racial or ethnic communities that are deemed underrepresented or underserved and sexual orientation that does not include anyone who is white and heterosexual.

Alternate appointments made by the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Education (page 3 SB 421), will be biased because they must ensure that:

- (i) At least 70 percent of the members of the youth advisory council are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved;
- (ii) At least 50 percent of the youth members of the youth advisory council from each of the regions identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserve.

The council proposed by SB 421 would violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. The passage of SB421 is a step backwards in promoting discrimination and not unity.

This bill deserves a NO vote.