

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education
San Diego, California

April 2025

VIA EMAIL

Assembly Member David Alvarez
80th District
California Assembly

Dear Assembly Member Alvarez:

On behalf of the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education (SD Concilio), we urge you to oppose AB 1468, which would place unnecessary and unacceptable limits on the teaching of Ethnic Studies in California high schools. We have spent weeks analyzing the bill's text and the accompanying press release from its sponsors. In addition, we have dialogued with progressive organizations from the Chicano/Latino community on both local and state levels about the intent and likely impact of AB 1468. Importantly, we have listened to the recommendations of Ethnic Studies (ES) scholars that have collectively spent decades researching and teaching this critical academic discipline.

For the more than thirty years of our SD Concilio's existence, we have supported ES, including Chicana & Chicano Studies, as a most valuable contribution to the education of Chicano/Latino students and the empowerment of our community. More recently, higher education scholars such as Sylvia Hurtado and Gina Garcia, respectively, have identified ES curriculum as a vital source that facilitates liberatory outcomes for our students, enabling them to become change agents and leaders for the Chicano/Latino community.

The supposed "guardrails" provided by AB 1468 are unnecessary and unwarranted. Ethnic Studies has never been implemented to teach any content that subordinates students and their communities. On the other hand, there are no guardrails that prevent institutional racism in existing California curriculum, including Social Studies that is completely devoid of authentic content documenting the Chicano experience in our state.

The legislation outlines responsibilities for various entities, including a nebulous "advisory committee" that would include those outside the expertise of ES scholars.

Those responsibilities seem deliberately confusing and add layers of political and bureaucratic oversight that are not applied to other academic disciplines in California curriculum.

Ethnic Studies is an academic discipline worthy of the same respect as other elements of the California curriculum. As such, it should be accorded such respect in any state oversight of ES curriculum. AB 1468 undermines such respect and does a disservice to Chicanos and other historically underrepresented communities of color that have been denied access to a curriculum inclusive of their authentic experience. We would appreciate a written response from your office as to your position on AB1468.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez, Co-Chair
SD Concilio

Isidro Ortíz, Co-Chair
SD Concilio

Alberto Ochoa
SD Concilio