



Robert Garcia, California State Assembly  
Sacramento, California

**RE: OPPOSITION to AB 2159**

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The Northern California Jewish Labor Council (NCJLC) writes in strong opposition to AB 2159. This bill targets protections for Jewish students at precisely the moment those protections are needed most.

NCJLC is the Northern California chapter of the national Jewish Labor Committee, covering Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties. An independent, secular 501(c)(3) organization, the JLC serves as the voice of the Jewish community in the labor movement and the voice of the labor movement in the Jewish community, enabling trade unions and the Jewish community to work together on issues of shared concern in pursuit of economic and social justice.

Jewish students in California's public schools are being harmed right now — not in theory, but in real, lived ways. They are sitting in classrooms where antisemitism is minimized, misunderstood, or allowed to continue unchecked. They are watching to see whether the adults in their schools will protect them — or stay silent. AB 2159 answers that question in the worst possible way.

AB 715 was the product of years of work by community leaders, educators, lawmakers, and students who came together to ensure that antisemitism in California's TK–12 classrooms would be taken seriously and addressed effectively. It passed the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support and has been upheld as constitutional by a federal court. AB 2159 threatens to erase that hard-won progress.

Specifically, AB 2159 would strip protections against bias and partisanship in classroom instruction and materials, eliminate the requirement that instruction meet accepted standards of professional responsibility, and demote the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator — and only the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator — to a lower-level civil



service role, while leaving all four other discrimination coordinators untouched. This bill applies a different, lesser standard to antisemitism than to every other form of hate. That is not a neutral policy choice.

This legislation was introduced without any consultation with the Jewish community. The California Legislative Jewish Caucus was not consulted. No other community would be expected to accept legislation targeting their protections without their involvement. Why should Jews?

The labor movement has long understood that an injury to one is an injury to all — not as a slogan, but as a promise. A promise to stand up for one another, especially when the going gets rough. AB 2159 does not honor that promise. When we weaken protections for one group, we open the door to weakening protections for others. If we allow safeguards against antisemitism to be stripped away today, we set a precedent that any marginalized group's protections can be questioned, reduced, or removed tomorrow. That is not who we are. That is not what our labor movement stands for. The Northern California Jewish Labor Council urges you to withdraw AB 2159. Jewish student safety is not negotiable, and California's commitment to protecting all students from discrimination and hate must remain firm and equal across every community.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Kahn', written in a cursive style.

Sue Kahn, NCJLC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Kitchell', written in a cursive style.

Susan Kitchell, NCJLC Vice President