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I am against the proposed legislation mandating every high school to offer a yearlong "ethnic studies" course. While I appreciate the importance of cultivating an understanding of diverse cultures and histories, I believe that this requirement risks fostering division rather than fostering the unity and inclusion we seek.

Educators, not 'youth-led" organization activists, should develop curricula that genuinely reflect the educational needs and goals of their students. The potential for a narrow interpretation of historical narratives is a significant concern. By mandating schools to carry a yearlong course focused on ethnic studies, we risk creating an environment that promotes specific viewpoints and prescribed ideologies that could inadvertently lead to radicalization or divisiveness.

Additionally, many schools are already grappling with tight budgets and staffing shortages. Mandating an ethnic studies course diverts precious resources away from the fundamental subjects that are crucial for our students' academic and professional futures. Our focus should remain on strengthening core subjects like math, science, and English, which are essential for preparing students to thrive in higher education and the workforce.

In conclusion, while the intention behind this legislation may be commendable, the potential pitfalls are too significant to overlook. I implore you to reconsider the compulsory nature of this ethnic studies requirement in favor of a more flexible approach that encourages schools to weave multicultural perspectives throughout their entire curriculum, which most do already.

Thank you