

Dear RI House Education Committee,

I am expressing my concerns about H 5836, the Ethnic Social Studies proposal. As a resident of Rhode Island and a leader in a community, I have a large RI population in our congregation representing many different nationalities. As a result, I am concerned that we educate the next generations regarding the stories of the hardships and differences of each of these ethnic groups, hopefully leading to a greater understanding of each other, so as not to repeat the past mistakes.

Your proposal identifies ethnic groups that have experienced hardships because of a lack of understanding of each other and certain selfish, driven, self-serving motives. However, I am concerned that the Jewish ethnic population is not included in this study, particularly regarding the harmful actions that have been perpetrated against their race. Historically, they have been the object of some of the most focused and inhumane treatment man has witnessed, solely because of their ethnicity.

I understand that including the Jewish perspective could also require a deeper exploration of our world's history, and may even reference biblical texts, which may seem too "religious". However, the foundation of their ethnic identity is in these texts. I would note that there are groups that are included in the list, which are also founded on their own sacred texts.

While I appreciate that this is intended to be a student-led program, which encourages engagement and leadership among younger individuals, I question whether experts in different ethical fields can also be represented in leading. The depth of knowledge required to adequately address and interpret the history of anti-Semitism and other ethnic driven radicalized actions, specifically in our modern History, has deep-rooted actions that are beyond the 20th & 21st centuries. If this curriculum moves forward, I urge you to also include representation from the Jewish community in its development as well. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Best,

Pastor Chris Pfeffer
Lead Pastor
508-336-4110
www.FaithCCenter.com
www.SeekonkChristianAcademy.com
chrisp@fcc-church.com