

February 24, 2023

Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura 417 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Sencer-Mura:

I am writing to express Jewish Community Action's strong support for HF1502, which would create an ethnic studies graduation requirement for Minnesota students, and support the formation of a working group representing the broad diversity of our state to develop the appropriate curriculum. We especially appreciate that the bill does not include curricular elements, but that this important task will be left to the representative students, parents, educators and community members with the most knowledge of and interest in developing a rigorous and appropriate curriculum.

Jewish Community Action is the Jewish voice in Minnesota's movement for economic, racial and social justice. We have been organizing for equity and justice since our founding in 1995, recognizing that the Jewish community's ability to live, work, learn and thrive in Minnesota is only possible if every marginalized community in Minnesota has the same rights, privileges and opportunities. Creating an integrated curriculum will prepare Minnesota students to live in an increasingly multiracial, multifaith state and country, and create a more connected and competent citizenry. This legislation will be a groundbreaking model for other states to follow. JCA is proud to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Beth Gendler

Executive Director

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