



On behalf of (Your Organization)

This letter is to support Texas House Bill 1504, which will make Ethnic Studies count toward high school graduation requirements. Texas youth deserve to know their history.

[Study](#) after study confirms that culturally relevant courses bridge the educational divide.

The [Cabrera Study](#) provided this information at the Arizona Supreme Court and was pivotal evidence in overturning the state's ban of Mexican American Studies. Now, we must unite so that every district benefits from the richness of these courses. This is especially important in the post-George Floyd era where so much attention is focused on dismantling structural discrimination that permeates our lives.

Texans have already united to bring this history forward, and it is time to celebrate its richness to the fullest. Republican and Democratic Texas State Board of Education representatives [voted unanimously](#) to approve Mexican American Studies in 2018 and African American Studies in 2019 as electives. Now, we must take the next step.

These powerful courses are only offered as electives, relegating our history to second-class, extra or something to overlook.

That is why, according to the [Texas Education Agency](#), just over 1,400 Texas students were able to take Mexican American studies, and less than 100 were able to take African American studies in the 2019-2020 school year.

This bill would allow African American Studies and Mexican American Studies courses to count toward high school graduation requirements. These courses currently lack this critical designation. This change would encourage school districts to invest in the teachers, staff and resources to teach these courses long-term. Most importantly, this change will make our history count.

It would also inspire scholars and activists to develop the curriculum for the approval of further ethnic studies courses, including Asian American and Indigenous American studies. Activists, scholars and elected officials have included both of these disciplines since advocates began championing this new era of ethnic studies.

Culturally relevant courses go far beyond the classroom in cultivating a generation of leaders who will diffuse cultural conflicts early on. These same thinkers can also build a Texas where all our contributions are recognized, respected, and celebrated.

We unite to deliver Texas-sized history for all our youth and their families.

Signed,

Group Leader:

Name:

Email:

Address:

Website:

Phone: