

President Michael Kirst
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 25, 2017

Dear President Kirst and Members of the State Board of Education:

We are members of the State Board of Education appointed 2017 History-Social Science Adoption Instructional Materials Reviewer panel members. There were 10 panels with 8-10 educators each who reviewed the submitted History Social Science Instructional materials.

We urge you to support the recommendations of the Instructional Quality Commission regarding the 2017 History-Social Science textbook instructional materials: adoption of Panels 2 through 10 for grades K-8, and the textbook rejection of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Panel 1 (K-6). We concur with the commission's recommendations.

Our journey in this process began with the HSS Adoption Training in April after which we reviewed the various submitted publisher programs (K-8) and then held our deliberations in July. At the training in April, we were instructed to use both the history standards and the Board approved HSS framework in our review of each history program. We diligently followed these instructions. During our deliberations - in each panel - major discussions centered around Standard 1, Category 14 of the evaluation criteria: *"Instructional materials use biography to portray the experiences of men, women, children, and youths. Materials shall include the roles and contributions of people from different demographic groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups to the total development of California and the United States (Education Code Section 60040)."*

As you are well aware, the language of Standard 1, Category 14, was adopted directly from the FAIR Education Act (Senate Bill 48), which compels the inclusion of political, economic, and social contributions of persons from minority groups and how those contributions helped to develop and sustain the State of California, as well as the United States. Additionally, the Social Content Standards developed by the California Department of Education require an equitable proportion of portrayals within the curriculum, as advanced in Education Code 50501, 60040(b), and 60044(a), *"Instruction*

materials containing references to, or illustrations of, people must portray accurately, to the extent possible, the roles and contributions of a fair proportion of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.”

Considering the foregoing information, most of our panels could not find evidence of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans (LGBT) in our respective textbooks that were consistent with the Framework or the Standards. The end result for many of our panels, because of the procedures put in place by regulations passed by the Board and implemented by the Department of Education, was that we could not adequately suggest ways that publishers could edit the textbooks so that they could reflect LGBT Americans in US history, generally, or in California history, specifically. Furthermore, some panels were allowed to use the edits and corrections process or the social content comments to suggest ways to include LGBT Americans, while other panels were told they could not use these processes for this purpose. We bring this to your attention in hopes that the process will improve in the future, because there were inconsistencies in what panels were allowed to write.

Thank you for your continued service to the students of California. We hope you will validate the decisions of Panels 2 through 10, the Instructional Quality Commission adoption recommendation for panels 2 through 10, and the Instructional Quality Commission rejection of the HMH Panel 1 of the History Social Science Textbook publishers. Moreover, we ask that you ensure that the edits and corrections and social comments submitted by the Content Review Experts and Instructional Materials Reviewers regarding Panels 2 through 10 are required for adoption.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Darrow, Aptos, CA (Panel 3)
Tamara Alexander, Corona, CA (Panel 1)
Eric Anderson, Chico, CA (Panel 10)
Gayathri Lakshmipathy, Fremont, CA (Panel 1)
William B. Dyke III, San Diego, CA (Panel 6)
Adam L. Erickson, Thousand Oaks, CA (Panel 7)
Cheri H. Anderson, Carmichael, CA (Panel 4)
Arlene Bartle Harris, San Diego, CA (Panel 4)
Tyler Rust, NBCT, Orinda, CA (Panel 8)
Julie Law-Marín, Sacramento, CA (Panel 1)
Amita Shah, Dublin, CA (Panel 3)
R. Sandie Woods, Fresno, CA (Panel 1)
Michelle Becker, San Diego, CA (Panel 2)

C. Scott Miller, Orange, CA (Panel 3)
David Donahue, San Francisco, CA (Panel 2)
Vanessa Escalante, Woodland Hills, CA (Panel 7)
Lynda Escalante, Woodland Hills, CA (Panel 6)
Gabriela Sosa, Heber, CA (Panel 10)
Carol Coopersmith, Chula Vista, CA (Panel 8)
Darrell J. Winger, Bakersfield, CA (Panel 10)
Steve Bsharah, Bakersfield, CA (Panel 10)
Robert Medrano, Long Beach, CA (Panel 10)