

July 15, 2020

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 331 (Medina) High school graduation requirements: ethnic studies — SUPPORT

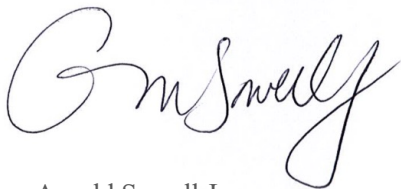
**Dear Chair Portantino,**

NextGen California respectfully requests your support of AB 331 (Medina), which will include ethnic studies as part of the high school graduation requirements beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Learning the history of the many racial and ethnic groups living in our state as well as how these racial and ethnic groups form a larger context for who we are economically, socially, and culturally is critically important. Incorporating ethnic studies courses into the standard high school curriculum is a means to accomplish this. Ethnic studies coursework promotes understanding among different communities, teaches critical thinking skills, encourages positive academic outcomes, and fosters student success. It also provides students with the opportunity to learn about their collective heritage in the broader context of California's history and cultural landscape.

California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation and students increasingly want to study issues of race and ethnicity in the academic classroom setting. NextGen California prioritizes policies and programs that promote student access, success and achievement. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your "Aye" vote on AB 331.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.  
Executive Director, NextGen California