



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecck, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, San Francisco; Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; John Sweeney, Santa Clara; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

March 21, 2024

Honorable Assembly Member James Ramos
1021 O Street, Suite 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 1821 (Ramos) - Pupil Instruction... - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ramos,

The Peace and Freedom Party strongly supports AB 1821, which would require that the California school curriculum include accurate and important information about the actual treatment of California's indigenous peoples during the period from Spanish settlement in 1769 through the Gold Rush.

Sadly, most Californians know little about this subject, and few understand that most of the roughly 400 indigenous national groups that inhabited California in the early 1700s had been destroyed by the time of the U.S. Civil War. Most languages then spoken in California have disappeared, and their conquerors murdered the great majority of the indigenous people of California at that time. All Californians need to understand our history, not just because of what it tells us about the past, but because this demonstration of how people of our own culture can commit genocide has relevance today. We need to understand history to avoid repeating it.

Of course, this bill does not take concrete action to remedy the past wrongs. The Peace and Freedom Party supports recognizing unrecognized tribes, returning substantial land to tribal governments, and further securing tribal sovereignty and the rights of California's native peoples. We are pleased these ideas are developing and growing and want that process to continue. However accurate education about the past can help improve matters in the future.

The curriculum changes specified in AB 1821 are appropriate, necessary, and right. We know that most Californians favor this idea, and we hope that the legislators, by their actions, support this public sentiment.

For these reasons, the Peace and Freedom Party supports AB 1821. For additional information about our position on this bill, please contact me at 916-207-4595 (mobile) or reigers@earthlink.net, or C. T. Weber at CTWeberVoters@att.net.

Sincerely,

John C. Reiger

C. T. Weber

John C. Reiger
Legislative Committee Chair
Peace and Freedom Party of California

C. T. Weber
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Peace and Freedom Party of California