



American Educational
Research Association

February 22, 2012

Representative Edward Ableser
Arizona House of Representatives
Capitol Complex, 1700 West Washington Street
Room 119
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890

Dear Representative Ableser:

On behalf of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), I am writing to inform you directly that the governing Council of the Association in a unanimous resolution urges the Arizona State Legislature to repeal HB2281 which amended the school curriculum statutes related to teaching ethnic studies courses. With 25,000 members, AERA is the nation's leading scientific and scholarly association dedicated to advancing knowledge about education, encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education, and promoting the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

We are concerned that HB2281 has been relied on as the basis for striking Mexican American Studies courses from the curriculum in the Tucson Unified School District No. 1 (TUSD). The Arizona Superintendent of Education's determination that TUSD was in violation of this law and the Governing Board's subsequent decision to suspend its Mexican American Studies program are disheartening in light of the compelling scientific evidence that such courses reduce prejudice and race bias and help build critical-thinking skills.

In a related resolution to the Governing Board of the Tucson Unified School District No. 1, AERA urges that Mexican American Studies courses be designed and offered in TUSD.

Both resolutions are enclosed and will be made public on February 23, 2012. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the repeal of HB2281 with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance or information.

Sincerely,

Felice J. Levine, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure