September 22, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 715 – as amended 09/09/2025
REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom,

As leaders of mosques, Islamic centers, and Muslim community organizations representing California's more than one million Muslims, we write to express our deep concern about AB 715 (Zbur, Addis) and to respectfully urge you to veto this bill. We share the goal of ensuring that every student is safe from hate and discrimination, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, but AB 715 undermines that goal by marginalizing our communities' experiences and erasing critical narratives from California classrooms.

Our community has faced a surge in Islamophobia, with record-high reports of discrimination and harassment in schools and public life. Yet, AB 715 singles out antisemitism for unique treatment while failing to address Islamophobia and other forms of hate on equal footing. By anchoring an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator in the highly contested International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition – a definition criticized for being used to silence political speech – this bill risks criminalizing or chilling discussion of Palestinian history and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This approach not only denies Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students the ability to see their lived experiences reflected in their education but also fosters a climate of fear and exclusion.

The bill's vague and sweeping mandates – such as undefined "factual accuracy" requirements and prohibitions on perceived advocacy or opinion – will intimidate teachers into self-censorship and discourage open dialogue. The requirement for the immediate and permanent removal of instructional materials deemed objectionable and the liability placed on administrators who had "reason to know" about such materials create unworkable conditions for educators and school leaders. Rather than fostering understanding, this will lead to silence around the very topics students need to explore in a safe and informed setting.

This bill is especially harmful to the mental and emotional well-being of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim youth, who already struggle to find their identities and histories represented in schools. AB 715 effectively renders their stories invisible and even punishable, deepening feelings of isolation and alienation at a time when they most need affirmation and inclusion. Our children deserve an education that reflects the full diversity of California, not one shaped by political pressure and fear of reprisal. No student deserves to be rendered second-class because their story is deemed unpopular by politicized education policy.

Governor Newsom, we urge you not to support a bill that will unfairly target Muslim Arab, and Palestinian students. We urge you to stand with all Californians who believe in honest education and equal treatment for every student. Preventing hate and discrimination

requires investments in inclusive curricula, culturally competent training, and restorative practices, not punitive measures that chill speech and marginalize entire communities. By vetoing AB 715, you can help ensure that California's classrooms remain spaces for learning, dialogue, and genuine inclusion.

We urge you to explore options that address rising antisemitism and other forms of hate in schools while safeguarding critical-thinking classrooms and rejecting censorship of essential topics, including those that may be unpopular.

Respectfully,

Afghan American Muslim Outreach
Al-Tanzeel Academy
Al-Umma Center of Santa Clarita Valley
American Muslim Public Affairs Council
American Muslim Voice Foundation
American Muslims for Palestine
Ansaar Academy
Arab American Caucus
Averroes High School
Berkeley Masjid Foundation
Burbank Islamic Center
Care and Grow
Cham Muslim Community
Chino Valley Islamic Center
Community Outreach and Resources for Excellence
Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Evergreen Islamic Center
Fatemiyeh Educational Center of Orange County
Folks for Falastin
Folsom Educational Academy
Fresno Masjid
Fullerton Muslim Community Center
Greater Sacramento Muslim Public Affairs Committee
HADI Relief
Hejrat Educational Center
Hikmah Institute
Ibrahim Khalilullah Islamic Center
ICNA Bay Area
ICNA Council for Social Justice, Bay Area
ICNA Greater Los Angeles
ICNA Sacramento
Inland Valley Muslims
Institute of Knowledge
IQRA Academy of Palos Verdes
Islamic Center of Calexico
Islamic Center of Coachella Valley
Islamic Center of Conejo Valley

Islamic Center of Fountain Valley
Islamic Center of Glendale
Islamic Center of Hawthorne
Islamic Center of Inland Empire
Islamic Center of Irvine
Islamic Center of Los Angeles
Islamic Center of North Marin
Islamic Center of Perris
Islamic Center of Reseda
Islamic Center of Riverside
Islamic Center of San Diego
Islamic Center of San Francisco
Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley
Islamic Center of Santa Ana
Islamic Center of Santa Clarita Valley
Islamic Center of Santa Cruz
Islamic Center of South Bay
Islamic Center of South Bay-LA
Islamic Center of Southern California
Islamic Center of Temecula alley
Islamic Center of Yorba Linda
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California
Islamic Institute of Orange County
Islamic Jafaria Association
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Corona/Norco
Islamic Society of Lake Elsinore
Islamic Society of Orange County
Islamic Society of Simi Valley
Islamic Society of West Valley
Islamophobia Studies Center
Kavkaz Islamic Center
King Fahad Mosque
La Mirada Masjid
Latino & Muslim Unity
Lighthouse Mosque
Malaysian Islamic Foundation of North America
Manara West
Masjid Al Tawheed
Masjid al-Huda
Masjid Annur
Masjid At-Thohir, Los Angeles
Masjid Gibrael, Inc.
Masjid Taqwa
Masjidul Waritheen
McKinney Islamic Association
Muhajer Foundation
Muslim Action Committee

Muslim American Society Public Affairs & Civic Engagement, Greater LA (MAS LA)
Muslim American Society – Social Services Foundation (MAS-SSF)
Muslim American Society, Bay Area (MAS Bay Area)
Muslim Community Association of San Francisco Bay Area
Muslim Community Center East Bay
Muslim Community of Folsom
Muslim Democratic Club
Muslim Democrats and Friends Club of Alameda County
Muslim Law Students Association at UC Berkeley
Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego
Muslim Mosque Association
Muslim Parents Association
Muslim Student Association at San Jose State University
Muslims for Progressive Values
Northern California Islamic Council
Orange County Islamic Foundation
Palestine American League
Peace Community Center
Rahma Community Center
Refugee Enrichment and Development Association
SABA Islamic Center
Sabil USA
Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims
Sacramento Metro Muslim Chamber of Commerce
San Diego for Palestine Coalition
San Ramon Valley Islamic Center
Shia Muslim Council of Southern California
South Bay Islamic Association
South Valley Islamic Community
Southern California Muslims Community Organization
Tarbiya Institute
Tawhid Community Center
Uplift Charity
We Love Our Neighbors, Inc.
Weekend Islamic Schools and Educational Resources USA
West Coast Islamic Society
West Valley Muslim Association
Yaseen Foundation
Youth Will