

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To,

**Thomas Adams, Executive Director**

Instructional Quality Commission

Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division (CFIRD)

California Department of Education

1430 N Street, Room 3207

Sacramento, CA 95814

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Sub: Portrayal of Hinduism in 6th grade.

Dear Dr. Thomas Adams,

We are writing as concerned parents of Hindu Californian children from a Hindu-Indian heritage or as Hindu Californians who went through the California school system. We feel it is important that the world history textbooks that California students are reading are up to date and reflect positively on their Religion and cultural heritage.

Hinduism as portrayed in the draft framework for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is unrecognizable to a practicing Hindu. We are disappointed to note that Hinduism is singled out for negative portrayal and presentation from an exclusively outsider's perspective. It is amazing that while all other religions are presented in a positive light with generous interpretations of their traditions from an insider's perspective, Hinduism is presented in a negative light with exclusive interpretations from the perspective of those that seek to vilify her.

Please bring some sense of fairness and justice in the presentation of Hinduism. It is only fair that Hinduism gets extended the same treatment that other religions have and an insider's perspective of Hinduism is presented. If social problems of Hindu society is attributed to the religion, then the social problems of Abrahamic society needs to be attributed to the Abrahamic religions. Either Hinduism gets the same treatment as other religions or other religions need to be equally presented from an outsider's perspective. Please let us know if you want us to present to you a Dharmic perspective of problems of Abrahamic society for inclusion in the framework. We would prefer to work with you on presentation of Hinduism from insider's perspective.

We urge you to take the necessary steps in this round of Framework revision to correct this egregious and unlawful inequality in treatment of Hindu Religion and Indian civilization. We hope that our children and their classmates will learn meaningful and relevant facts about Hinduism and the contributions of Hindu-India to the World.

Sincerely,

(Parent's Name)

(City of Residence / School District)

(e-mail / Phone number)