**AB 715 Withdrawn from Senate Education Com. Agenda!**

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the broad CA Coalition to Defend Public Education, AB 715 was pulled from the July 9th Senate Education Committee agenda! AB 715 proposes to streamline the process to make complaints against teachers and school districts for permitting so-called “antisemitic” lessons, materials or conversations in class. This bill falsely defines antisemitism as any mention of Palestine or criticism of Israel. Anonymous complaints would be allowed, and complaints would go directly to a proposed state Coordinator on Antisemitism, who would not need to consult with local educational entities. Because of the censorship proposed in this bill, it has been opposed by the CA School Boards Association, CA Latino School Boards Association, CA Teachers Association, the ACLU and over 70 community and labor organizations.

The fact that AB 715 was suddenly pulled from the Education Committee shows people power works. The thousands of emails and phone calls our community members made to senate offices made clear that the public overwhelmingly rejects this legislation. As a result, the pro-Israeli lobby groups pushing this bill didn’t have enough votes to ensure passage through the committee, so they pulled it from the agenda.

This is an important victory but likely not the end of our fight. The politicians and lobby groups seeking to censor Palestine and repress any criticism of the State of Israel are expected to either introduce a new bill or revive and amend AB 715, probably in August, so we must remain vigilant! **We will ask you to mobilize again later this summer if this bill reemerges.**

Sumud! Solidarity!

**CA Palestine Solidarity Coalition & CA Coalition to Defend Public Education**

[**https://defendcaeducation.org**](https://defendcaeducation.org)

 **Local Info:** **southbay@jewishvoiceforpeace.org**

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