

Dr. Michael Kirst, President  
State Board of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite #5111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Hindu Education Foundation USA (HEF)'s response to last minute edit request by 'South Asian Histories for All'

Respected Members of SBE,

We write to you to address a letter submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) on November 1st by a group named 'South Asian Histories For All (SAHFA).' The letter claims that the History-Social Science (HSS) Framework is not being followed, amongst other defamatory statements about the Hindu American community. We take this opportunity to offer our observations on the changes that this group has suggested, as well as text that it cites as problematic in the textbook drafts. Our overall observations are as follows:

1. In **32** of the **43** proposed revisions that SAHFA has suggested, the original text from the textbook drafts complies with what is mandated by the HSS Framework. In most cases, the text is nearly identical to what is mandated by the Framework document, while in others, the text is clearly included in order to comply with the Framework. **SAHFA appears to be seeking deletions and/or modifications of text that conforms with the Framework, thereby leading to potential violations of Category 1.2 and 1.12 of the HSS adoption criteria.** In the table below, we have quoted the text from the HSS Framework (adopted by the State Board of Education on July 14, 2016), along with the page and line numbers for your reference.
2. **Two** changes are based on old revisions of textbooks drafts, and are thus moot, as either the publishers and/or the Instructional Quality Commission have changed the text.
3. **None of the edits cite any scholarly references.**
4. Many of SAHFA's suggestions adversely reflect upon Hinduism, thereby placing several textbook drafts in jeopardy of violating **Category 1.10** of the HSS adoption criteria and the Social Content citations
5. Given SAHFA's contentions about erasure of history, it is indeed ironic that **nine** of the total **43 edits call for deletions of content** from the textbook drafts. They even suggest the deletion of significant portions of the section on Hinduism in one of the textbooks. While they claim to talk for the "lower castes", we do not see in their edits any suggestion to add the cultural or religious contributions of "lower castes". It is rather because of the efforts of HEF that Hindu sages and saints from so called "lower castes" were included in the framework in 2016.

We thus respectfully request the State Board of Education (SBE) to reject these suggested revisions as they are not academically or historically sound, contradict the HSS Framework, and would lead to gross violations of the HSS textbook adoption criteria, as well as numerous Social Content criteria.