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#### Participating Organizations

American Muslims for Palestine

Appalachian Peace Education Center

Arab American Association of Central Virginia

Community for Justice in Palestine & Israel of the Alliance of Baptists

Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality

Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church - USA

Jewish Voice for Peace

National Arab American Women's Association

New Dominion PAC

Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice

Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

Plowshares Peace & Justice Center

Richmonders for Peace in Israel and Palestine

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter

United Methodists for Kairos Response

US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace

January 25, 2019

We are the co-chairs of the Education Committee of the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights, and we thank you for your assistance last year in explaining Pearson's internal process for vetting suggested revisions from outside groups.

We write to share with you our concerns about Pearson's textbook **United States History: 1865 to the Present**.

In general, we have found the content and approach to instruction related to Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq to be misleading and incomplete. Some SOL-related problem areas include: the promotion of stereotypes, the absence of a discussion of indirect cause-and-effect relationships, and the absence of opportunities to compare and contrast historical, cultural, and political perspectives in U.S. history.

We have attached a review by Virginia-based academicians—many of whom are Middle East experts—that describes our concerns, found in **Topic 9/Lesson 3** and **Topic 10/Lessons 1-2**. Our reviewers found several problematic statements and one-sided images. For each we have noted the passage and have provided possible rewording of that passage, along with the rationales for each—many of which are supported by multiple citations.

In addition to our review, we have attached a summary of the rating sheet for this text completed by a Virginia Department of Education textbook review committee in October of 2017. We focus on Section I: USII.1.e and USII.1.f and Section II: #5 and #7.

We thank you in advance for your response to this letter. We sincerely hope that you will carefully consider our concerns. We believe it is important for textbook companies to consult a wide variety of expert views when writing a textbook to be used by young people. It is important that Virginia's teachers and students have balanced, accurate materials in their classrooms.

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