

Testimony of Robin Allman before the Virginia Board of Education - Feb 2, 2023

Good afternoon. My name is Robin Allman. I'm from Richmond, Virginia, and I represent the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights. That's a coalition of nineteen organizations in Virginia focused on justice in Palestine.

We again urge you to reinstate the December collaborative draft. I refer you to the VCHR letter; it'll look like this. It's emailed to you and was sent again yesterday for specifics.

Propaganda is indeed powerful. Arab Americans must be included in Virginia's history, although they are hard to find within January's draft. A reminder that April is Virginia Arab American history month.

One of the deficiencies of the history SOLs is the lack of focus on how the US and the students' home communities are affected by conditions and events in distant places. Children of the diaspora of Palestine and their classmates must learn of the struggles in the Middle East and why Palestinians are not allowed to visit their homeland. Nor hug their grandparents stranded there, even if those children are American-born and raised.

Give Palestine its place in the world. Please support the legally amended process for collaborative SOLs and reject the January draft. Thank you.