

Hello Committee Members

We urge you to pass the bill out of the Committee this week.

Vermont needs to move forward to ensure that racial disparities in the criminal justice system are confronted honestly and effectively.

In addition and related - we are reminded of this section of the Vermont Democratic Party's August 20, 2016 platform, which all Vermonters can support.

D. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Vermont Democratic Party supports individual liberty and the community of citizens caring for and about each other. Laws and regulations must be administered so that all Vermonters are treated equally. We reject racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic rhetoric, and encourage diversity of race, attitudes and beliefs.

1. EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

The Vermont Democratic Party:

- Believes in equitable treatment for all, including an end to institutional racism.
- Will work to amend Article 1 of the Vermont Constitution to clarify that slavery in any form is absolutely prohibited.

Thank you

Peter Thoms

Montpelier

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