

Please post.

From: vermont-house-government-operations@googlegroups.com <vermont-house-government-operations@googlegroups.com> on behalf of Joey Corcoran <joeycork@burlingtontelecom.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2018 6:44 PM
To: vermont-house-government-operations@googlegroups.com
Subject: disappointed in your actions on S. 281

Dear Chair and Members of the Government Operations Committee,

The purpose of S. 281 as I understood it was to begin to address systemic racism in Vermont. The traffic data that has been collected shows incontrovertibly that systemic racism exists in Vermont. So do the disproportionate suspensions of students of color.

Here was your opportunity to address this. Instead you have gutted the bill. I'm disappointed but still hopeful that before you vote it out you will undo some of the damage.

Please:

- 1) Create the position of Director with the funds and legal and administrative assistance such a role requires to be useful.
- 2) Delete the role of liason from the Director as it places an unnecessary barrier between the Human Rights Commission and their work.
- 3) Re-instate the collection of statewide data on racially motivated behavior. How else are going to know what's going on?!

Racism is not the fault of the staff of state agencies. Implicit biases have been inherent in how most of us were brought up. Its threads run subtly through our culture. It is hurtful. We see in the ongoing killing, incarceration, school suspensions and expulsions of people of color in contrast to the discipline and penalties received by white people, often for similar behaviors, that this is a fact.

I am a white person of European descent as I guess you may be. It is our responsibility to redress these wrongs.

Please take the wise action and re-think this bill.

Josephine Corcoran

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