

Dear House Judiciary Members,

I urge you to set a national standard for remediation of multi-generational racial bias by supporting H.492, the first racial justice reform bill in Vermont history. As a business owner, a family member and parent, I am keenly aware that capable and energetic young people of color avoid looking for work in Vermont because of its lack of racial diversity. Despite the epithet of "whitest state in the nation", examples of apparent racial bias on the part of police and sheriffs circulate in discussion even in my small community.

We cannot afford, economically, socially or morally to succumb to the racism mania that is infecting the broader American political conversation. As it is, the US Boarder patrol agents and ICE agents are injecting an element of fear, intolerance and weaponized politicization into racial and religious identity issues.

Vermont has an opportunity to go on record as supporting each citizen's Constitutional right to a life free from racial or religious profiling, bias and persecution.

Please do your all to enact H.492.

Warm regards,

Carol-lee Worth