

I am writing to express my support for the Racial Justice Reform Bill (H.492/S.116) currently before the Judiciary Committee. I believe that Vermont should make a strong commitment to addressing systemic racism in state institutions, especially the criminal justice system, and I think this bill is an important first step. Currently, Black people in VT are incarcerated at more than 10 times the rate of white people (double the national average) [1], and data on traffic stops, arrest rates, and other police outcomes shows dramatic racial disparities. [2] I believe the creation of a Racial Justice Oversight Board would provide a much-needed structure for beginning to address these inequalities. I hope you will do everything you can to ensure passage of this bill. Thank you for your hard work!

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