

Dear Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees,

My name is Erin Rose, and I live in Calais. I was born and raised in this town, as was my mother, and I am a proud Vermonter. As a young adult I traveled and lived all over the country and I always felt pride when people would comment on my home state: how beautiful it is, how progressive, how welcoming and open-minded our people are. I know in the truest sense, this is who we are as a state. Even when it is difficult, even in these tumultuous and terrifying times, I am certain that Vermont is capable of standing on the side of right. S.79 passed through our congress so swiftly, based largely on the principle that our vulnerable people need protecting, and that it is the right thing to do. Should not those same core Vermont principles be applied to H.492? ALL people of color are at risk in this state, immigrants and citizens alike. It is our duty to stand up and offer protection, offer dignity, and above all offer the promise that Vermont has held for so many for so long, that all are free and welcome here. It is imperative that we do this now. Justice delayed is justice denied and I know that Vermont will meet that high standard we have set for ourselves once again.

Thank you,

Erin Rose