

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Racial Justice Reform Bill (H.492) currently before the Judiciary Committee. I believe that Vermont should make a strong statewide commitment to addressing systemic racism in state institutions, especially the criminal justice system, and I think this bill is an important first step. It is clear that there are dramatic racial disparities at all levels of the Justice system in Vermont, from traffic stops and searches to outcomes in court to incarceration rates, and 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!

Sincerely,

Ethan Hazzard-Watkins
Brattleboro