

"As a "classic" looking Vermonter, I fortunately have not had any personal experience with bias in the criminal justice system. That said, I am shocked by the numbers that have come out of studies looking at this issue, and I believe that most Vermonters who have had the opportunity to see these numbers and really understand them probably feel the same. Certainly the people I grew up knowing in Wolcott and surrounds would never feel comfortable knowing that our state is part of this kind of injustice, regardless of whether it's intentional or not. Having realized that we have a problem, we must be compelled to look at it more closely and determine how to fix it. I'm really impressed at the work going on to craft H492 to take significant steps towards looking at this issue in our justice system holistically, and I thank the committee for their efforts."

Linda Young, Montpelier

Thank you, and please make sure this gets entered into record as official testimony for H.492.