

Dear Chair Grad:

DPS has reviewed the most recent version of H.492 provided by Ms. Hare yesterday afternoon. This current version is a significant rewrite of the legislation and addresses many of the issues and objections DPS and Vermont law enforcement have raised to this bill. DPS, through the VSP, and other law enforcement agencies have been strong supporters and advocates for racial justice and community policing for many years. Thus, we support the overall goals of the legislation -- the creation of a Board that will assist in ensuring discrimination has no place in Vermont. That said, there are still some particular provisions of the bill as written that are of concern. Attached is a DPS mark-up of the bill which addresses these concerns. I have also consulted with the VCJTC, the Vermont Chiefs' Association, and the Vermont Sheriffs' Association and they concur with these revisions.

VSP Captain Jonas and I will also plan on attending Tuesday's hearing to answer any questions the Committee may have regarding these proposed changes or the bill in general.

Thank you for your and the Committee's work on this.

Tom Anderson  
Commissioner  
Vermont Dept. of Public Safety