

Testimony on H.245 - Vermont Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group Membership and Appropriations

Testimony To: House Committee on Education

Respectfully Submitted By: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education

Date: February 24, 2021

My Position on the Bill

1. I support the expansion of the working group to a total membership of 23 members. I support the inclusion of additional student members and members of Vermont's Indigenous community, but it is not clear to me if the proposed language causes the total membership of the group to be greater than 23 members.
2. Based on my experience working with large supervisory union boards, I would point out that any group over 20 members becomes difficult to manage relative to fulfilling its mission and purpose.
3. Appropriation of \$108,000 – I do not support this appropriation which is greater than the total annual appropriation of the State Board of Education. The primary role of the Advisory Group is to advise the State Board of Education on the adoption of curriculum standards. This appropriation expands the role of the group into a new area, sponsoring teacher professional development. I do support an additional appropriation of \$1,500 to cover the per diem costs of the proposed three new members of the group.