



Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
222 Riverside, AV
Burlington, VT 05401

March 8, 2021

To: Vermont General Assembly
President Pro Temp and Speaker of the House

We hope that we find you well at this midpoint in the session and wish to express our desire to make the progress that we all understand to be important. At the beginning of this session we called on the Vermont legislature to ACT. We asked you to “acknowledge our past, stop the status quo, and transform our state systems, which for too long have oppressed and exploited American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) and as a result other Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).” We told you that our legislative agenda would catalyze Vermont’s prioritization of ADOS wellness and empowerment and enable their ability to thrive. We Called on Vermont to achieve a moral budget by creating a bottom’s up approach that centers the lives of ADOS and other BIPOC and asked you to declare racism a public health emergency by legislative joint resolution. We asked you to ACT. [Here](#) are the priorities that we established at the beginning of the session.

A.C.T.

- **A**cknowledge & Reconcile Historic Systems of Racism
- **C**reate New Structures for ADOS and other BIPOC Economic and Cultural Empowerment
- **T**ransform State Systems

Though much of our work remains in legislative council, we thank you for the work thus far. Consistent with our approach at the top of the session, we wish to make clear our desired outcomes with hopes that you will consider the voices of this Black-led organization in prioritizing the work of the legislature intended to advance the BIPOC community. We implore you to **advance the following policy** as we close the first half of the session.

Acknowledge

Racism: Public Health Emergency (Resolution)
Please pass [this resolution](#) in each Chamber

Constitutional Amendment: Abolish Slavery ([PR.2](#))
Please pass Proposal 2 in each Chamber

Create

Economic Development [H.406](#) - Please prioritize the introduction of the Racial Justice Alliance Economic Opportunity and Cultural Empowerment bill and pass it out of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee for consideration on the floor for potential crossover. We ask that this bill be also considered as an amendment to H.336.



Land Access and Property Ownership [H.273](#) - Please take additional testimony and pass the bill out of the House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee for consideration on the floor for potential crossover.

Cannabis Equity [H.414](#) - Please prioritize the introduction of the Racial Justice Alliance Cannabis Equity bill and pass it out of the House Government Operations Committee for potential crossover. We ask that this bill also be considered as an amendment to S.25 in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Transform

Health Equity [H.210](#) – Please take additional testimony, amend the bill as appropriate and pass the bill out of House Healthcare Committee for consideration on the floor for potential cross-over

Post-Crossover Policies

1. Reparations ([H.387](#))
2. Racial Equity Director (data infrastructure, independence and authority)
3. Voter suppression language removal from statutes “Freeman”
4. Statewide Police Oversight
5. Reimagining Policing Statewide

Thank you for your commitment to ACT at this unprecedented time. We hope that this session will produce outcomes that are of utmost importance in eradicating systemic racism in Vermont.

Respectfully,

Mark Hughes
Executive Director
Vermont Racial Justice Alliance