

**1) “Joint resolution relating to racism as a public health emergency”**

I feel the words “economic disparities and inequities” should be substituted for “racism”. Correlation does not mean causation.

**2/3) “Health inequities exist in the united states based on race and that are caused by systemic racism”**

How are we defining health inequities and what do the statistics say? The remainder of the resolution is riddled w/ statistics yet this portion offers none. Also, the words “Systemic Racism” are used in this section and offer no clarity on how Vermont defines systemic racism. If systemic racism is important enough to write into a resolution that declares racism a public health emergency, then we would be remiss by not defining it.

**4) “Black and Latino people in the United States have been nearly three times as likely to die”**

Why are we using national data in this section? Why are we not using data from our own state? If racism in Vermont is a public health emergency, then we should provide Vermonters with real data as it pertains to our state? Are black and Latino people 3x more likely to die? Or are they dying at 3x the rate? Are the deaths, or likelihood of death, related to covid or racism?

**5) “Black residents comprise just over 1% of Vermont’s populations, they account for approximately 4.8% of the total confirmed covid cases”**

Why is this data only referencing the black population? Why are we not using data from all non-white Vermonters? Would this statistic present as less ominous if include all non-white Vermonters? I feel leaving ethnic groups out of this statistic depicts an inaccurate narrative. If we look at the data in terms of “Household”, would the “percent of population” to “percent of confirmed cases” be closer to a 1:1 ratio?

**6) “Vermont residents experience barriers to the equal enjoyment of good health based on race and ethnicity”**

Is this in reference to all Vermonters? Or only the non-white Vermonters? What barriers exist in Vermont that prevent equal enjoyment of good health based on race and ethnicity? Is there data to support this statement? Is this due to racism? Or can the be attributed to economic disparities and inequities?

**7) Talks about the covid incidence rate for non-white Vermonters**

I appreciate that this section includes data from other ethnic groups. However, what does this statistic look like if we look at incidence rate by household? What is the incidence rate versus death rate vs hospitalization rate? Also, is the disparity due to racism? Or is this best attributed to economic

disparities? Again, I feel it is important for us to provide an accurate narrative as it pertains to Vermont.

**9) “36% of non-white Vermonter’s had household contact with a confirmed case of covid, as compared to only 20% of white Vermonter’s”**

Does this statement take into consideration household size? Can this disparity be attributed to cultural differences between white and non-white Vermonter’s and the propensity for multigenerational non-white Vermonter’s.

**13) “21% of black Vermonters own their own homes, while 72% of white Vermonters own their own homes”**

This section should include all non-white Vermonters, not just black. Again, it’s important to present an accurate narrative. How many non-white Vermonters want to own a home? Is this parameter defined in a similar fashion as unemployment? In that, if you aren’t looking for work then you’re not unemployed. If non-white Vermonters want to buy and can’t, is that due to racism? Or can this be attributed to economic disparities and inequities?

**14) “median household income of black Vermonters is \$41,533 while the median household income of white Vermonters is 58,244”**

Are we saying the difference in pay is due to racism? If not, then why is it relevant. The section better supports a resolution that states “economic inequity as a Public Health Emergency”. I would hesitate to leave this section in this resolution. Personally, it feels disrespectful to discuss differences in income and leave out the pay gap as it pertains to women.

**16) “one in two non-white Vermonters experience housing problems, which is defined as having homes that lack complete kitchen facilities or plumbing, having overcrowded homes, or paying more than 30% of household income towards rent, mortgage payments, and utilities”**

This section does not contain a comparison to white Vermonters, why is that? Are the “housing problems” due to racism? Or economic disparities or inequities?

**17) Black Vermonters are overrepresented among Vermonters experiencing homelessness, in that they make up 6% of Vermonters experiencing homelessness, while making up approximately 1% of Vermont’s population”**

This section does not contain a comparison to white Vermonters as a percentage of the population. Additionally, we are again only looking at the statistic for black Vermonters, not non-white Vermonters.

**18) “racism constitutes a public health emergency”**

Is racism truly a public health emergency in Vermont? Or can this be attributed to economic disparities and inequities?