

Date: May 12, 2021

To: Senate Committee

From: Joanne Crawford, member of the VT Abenaki community

RE: J.R.H. 6

I am submitting testimony for J.R.H. 6, the joint resolution relating to racism as a public health emergency. As a member of the Abenaki community, I feel that it is important for this resolution to include data from the Native American community which faces substantial barriers to health and wellbeing. Please consider adding the following data.

In Vermont the median household income for American Indian and Alaska Native alone was \$40,585. This is according to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, February 2020.

According to the Vermont Department of Health's 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 25% of American Indian / Alaska Native middle school students have ever seriously thought about killing themselves.

The Vermont Department of Health Vermont Vaccination Data for 5/12/21 shows only 23% of Native American, Indigenous, or First Nation have been vaccinated as opposed to the 66.5% for white.

Because this resolution is giving a voice to those who are invisible to the "system", it is inappropriate for the Native American community to be lumped into a nameless "other" category in the sixth paragraph. The data for the Native American community is significant and deserves to be visible.

Thank you.