

April 4, 2024

Vermont Senate Committee on Judiciary

Proposition 4

Vermont Family Alliance testimony

Vermont Family Alliance requests the Committee on Judiciary consider Professor Teachout's recommended language, which has not been discussed to date:

*"Every person is entitled to be treated with equal respect and dignity under the law, therefore government, acting either alone or in conjunction with private actors, shall not deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or deny any person the equal protection of the laws. The legislature shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this article with appropriate legislation."*

No one can deny humans that historically and presently, human beings treat one another horribly.

It is appalling and grievous.

When we consider crimes against humanity, it should be the perpetrators, not taxpayers, that make reparations for unethical and immoral behavior.

Committee discussion and accepted witness testimony indicates legislators do not intend to protect each person equally under Proposition 4, but to roll out legislation under Proposition 4 for the purposes of affirmative action and equity programs, and to strengthen courts in favor of groups listed in PR 4 over others. Equal protection under the law and equity programs are two different ideas and intents. Our Constitution is intended to provide equal rights, not equal things.

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