

Nate Biscotti

From: Megan Cannella
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 2:53 PM
To: Kathleen Voigt Walsh; Martin LaLonde
Subject: RE: [External] Proposition 4 Equal Protection Under the Law ~ my testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you, this testimony will be posted to the House Judiciary committee page.

best,
Megan

Megan Cannella | [she/her](#)
Supervisor of Committee Services
[Senate Transportation Committee](#), Room 3
Office of Legislative Counsel
Vermont General Assembly

Attention Witnesses: If you have documents to accompany testimony, please submit as a PDF at least 24 hours in advance of your scheduled testimony. Should you require accessibility services, please [click here](#) and note that requests should be made 48 hours in advance of testimony.

First time testifying? See [Information for Witnesses](#) here.

From: Kathleen Voigt Walsh <kathleen.voigt.walsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Martin LaLonde <MLaLonde@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Megan Cannella <Megan.Cannella@vtleg.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposition 4 Equal Protection Under the Law ~ my testimony

[External]

Dear Representative LaLonde:

I appreciate the opportunity to meet you briefly earlier this week, just as you were preparing to leave the Public Hearing on Proposition 4, the Equal Protection Amendment to the Vermont Constitution. Although I will not be eloquent, nor as knowledgeable as others who have spoken before you, the passage of P.R.4 matters to me.

I believe in a world where each human being is treated with respect and dignity. Some people are afforded respect and dignity without their effort, just because of who they are. As an American I have always believed that we, as a nation, stand for the concept of equality for all people. I have always believed that when people are not afforded that dignity and respect, they should be able to get that fixed. I've believed that that's what laws are for.

As someone who has tried to "make the world a better place" throughout my life, starting as a Red Cross volunteer in high school, I have learned that it's not so easy. The world is a complicated place. I've discovered that when you try to address unfairness or injustice, often it just doesn't work very well... things don't change that much. Despite our aspirations and our work, there are systems in place (political, economic, cultural, etc) that prevent the correction of major problems like racism, poverty, homelessness, and discrimination.

I believe that the Constitutional Amendment before us creates a stronger, more grounded way of fixing the systemic problems that persist. It is needed because our Federal Government has abandoned our American ideals of equal justice for all. Our defender of Civil Rights, our federal government, has ceased to do its job. And so, our State must do all it can to protect the rights of those who suffer discrimination.

This Amendment is not perfect, nothing is. But in 2026, we have to do what we can to protect what we believe in most. I look forward to voting in favor of Proposition 4 when it comes to the Ballot in Vermont in November of 2026, and I thank you and your Committee for making that possible.

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

With kind regards,
Kathileen Voigt Walsh
20 West St
Winooski, VT 05404

"The major job was getting people to understand that they had something within their power that they could use, and it could only be used if they understood what was happening and how group action could counter violence..." – Ella Baker

From a poem for 2026: Here's to a year of alignment, actualization, and becoming—walking in purpose, speaking truth with tenderness, and living into the fullness of who we were always meant to be. With love, gratitude, and faithful expectation of wonders untold. ~ Rajnii Eddins, Vermont Poet

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.