

13 Claire Point Rd.
Burlington, VT 05408
21 April 2026

Nate Biscotti, Legislative Aid to House and Senate Judiciary Committees
Vermont Legislature

RE: Support for PR 4

Dear Mr. Biscotti and Legislators:

We find ourselves in a time of crisis for both human rights and for democracy. We cannot have democracy or civil society if human rights are violated with impunity.

I came of age at another time when our country struggled with human rights and democracy, and have learned that both are fragile and must be defended by people of conscience at all times.

The current period appears even more threatening than earlier periods as those in federal offices of power (and their minions) sanction violence, violent, dehumanizing speech and deprivation of basic human rights against those members of our society who are outside white, male, so-called Christian supremacist nationalist hegemony.

Our founding documents must declare and protect the intrinsic value and dignity of individuals and minority groups in our society, including people of color, trans people, and those with disabilities. This is more necessary than ever as we have seen that federal and some state authorities are not willing to respect human rights.

As a taxpayer and concerned citizen, and a believer in a loving and justice-seeking One who Creates, Liberates and Sustains us, I strongly urge this Legislature, our Governor, and the people of Vermont to adopt and incorporate PR 4 into our Constitution.

With gratitude,
Sylvia Knight

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Knight".

Cc: Sen. Martine Gulick; Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky; Sen. Phil Baruth; Rep. Carol Ode;
The Rev. Mark Hughes, VRJA; Melissa Battah, VIA; The Rev. Susan McMillan; The Very Rev.
Greta Getlein; The Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown; Gov. Phil Scott.