

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that The Vermont Agency of Education is looking to eliminate Jewish people from the definition of Ethnic groups as it implements the State Education Quality Standards. I am deeply upset and opposed to this move.

I am not a deeply religious person, but I am Jewish. Being Jewish is more than just about praying and observing religious rituals. It is an identity, which has both positive and negative implications in the world. I have experienced firsthand anti-semitism and witness it increasing in the world, even in the United States. Now is the time increase protections against hate like this, not decrease them.

I strongly urge you to speak to Jewish people and gain an understanding of how being Jewish IS an ethnicity and not solely a religion. Persecution and scapegoating of Jews has been far too prevalent in the world. I hope Vermont will lead the way in seeking to end that.

Sincerely,
Daniel Bradford
Ludlow, VT