

I support the language that the team has already introduced to the EQS. I have two daughters in Essex school district who will be school-aged in the next few years and I grew up in Montpelier Vermont, attending school without those guidelines.

There are many amendments in the EQS that will ensure that empathy, compassion, diversity is something they grow up understanding in their school environment, in combination with learning at home.

I request that you retain the strong anti-discrimination definition in the EQS. And that the State Board be transparent in its decision-making process and share the legal analysis offered by the attorney who expressed concerns about liability.

Four years of dedicated work have gone into crafting these standards for the benefit of our students. It should not be altered simply due to concerns about liability. Tell us more and empower the working group to address concerns, rather than rewriting work that has been thoughtfully crafted by parents and educators.

Thank you

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Deirdre Yee

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