

As a long time VT resident who identifies as a member of the BIPOC community, I ask that the school board retain the strong anti-discrimination definition in the EQS. I ask 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. Those of us who are non-white but still choose to live in VT deserve to be seen and valued. By taking the language out, the school board is effectively oppressing by omission. Please, consider the perspectives of those of us who desire to live in a more inclusive and equitable state. The anti-racist language is NOT controversial, it may make some white folks uncomfortable but this is how we expand and evolve Vermont's deeply engrained normalized supremacy culture. Please, please see us. Care about us. Hear us. Learn from us. Be courageous and do what might feel hard for you to do.

Thank you for listening.

Warmly,

Emilie Inoue

Colchester, VT