

Dear Madams and Sirs:

We strongly support adopting new Rules to the State Education Quality Standards, mandating equitable, antiracist, culturally responsive, anti-discriminatory and inclusive curricula. We are aware that the standards include ethnic groups that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide, including antisemitism, as stated in Section B. This language unequivocally includes Jewish people.

We are concerned to learn that the drafting agency for the final Standards will no longer define the Jewish community as an Ethnic Group. This would be a serious mistake. As parents of three Jewish daughters, we have lived in Vermont since 1979. Our girls were raised in Woodstock and attended public school here. There have been upsetting incidents when our children and ourselves as adults have been confronted by ignorance of the ethnic Jewish community by other Vermonters. It is clear the adoption by the legislature of new rules should acknowledge this issue.

Ignorance is passed from generation to generation. Ignorance leads to hate and hate leads to violence. We are seeing too much violence against minority groups in today's world. Only through education can ignorance be stopped.

Thank you for your good work and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan & Barry Feinberg

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