

1. Dear Chair Samuelson and members of the State Board:

Every Vermont child and their family should know and trust that their public and independent schools are sincerely and passionately committed to protecting them from discrimination.

I ask the State Board not to alter the wording of "Statement of Purpose" or the definition of "discrimination" in the proposed EQS Manual.

We owe it to Vermont's students in our schools to protect them from discriminatory harm in all circumstances, even when state and federal law do not provide us with the tools to conduct anti discrimination interventions outside the parameters of "protected classes."

In order to ensure all Vermont's children are protected, and can thrive, you must expressly prohibit all forms of discrimination in our schools, and expand protections against it.

Sincerely,

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