

From: Penny Patch David Martin <pendavidvt@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 10:33 AM

To: Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>

Subject: From Penny Patch-Please pass the EQS updates proposed by the Act 1 working group

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Dear Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, and members of the State Board of Education EQS Committee,

My name is Penny Patch and I live in Lyndonville, VT. I am a retired nurse-midwife and teacher. I am writing the State Board to advocate for the passage of the EQS updates as proposed by the Act 1 Working Group.

In 1962, as an 18 year old young white woman, I joined the southern Civil Rights Movement, working for three years for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in GA and MS. Those were transformative years that affected my life in multiple ways. For the past 30 years I have brought Civil Rights Movement history, with pieces of my personal story into middle schools, high schools, and colleges in VT and also outside our state. And for six years I taught a Race&Criminal Justice course at Springfield College in St Johnsbury.

The central point I want to make is that I have always seen my job as supporting ALL the students I have made contact with. BIPOC students YES absolutely. And also white students, many of whom are learning this history for the first time. My goal, and I think I have been successful, is never to feed guilt and shame in the white students. My goal is to support them in knowing that they, as young people, can contribute to making a difference in the world, in allyship with students of color and other targeted minority groups. It takes work yes, and if I can succeed, with good support so can teachers across the state of VT.

Thank you for the work you do.

Sincerely,

Penny Patch