

Dear Chairman Campion and Committee Members,

We write urging you to support the civil, human, and educational rights of students and communities of color by passing **S.63** and removing police officers from Vermont's schools.

Policing practices in schools disproportionately criminalize Black students, students of color, and students with disabilities. [Research unequivocally refutes the assumption that police make schools safer.](#) Instead patterns reveal a disproportionate negative impact on BIPOC students and students with disabilities who are targeted by school police for low-level school misbehavior. Some impacts of police in schools are a damaging school climate, significant mental health needs arising from trauma from police contact, and decreased graduation rates for Black students and students with disabilities who are exposed to school police.

Providing counselors and mental health professionals is a more effective approach to school safety. In concert with this work, we declare unwavering support for **S.63**, which was introduced last year. We urge your committee to take testimony on this bill and move it forward.

Passing **S.63** is your opportunity to take action to end discriminatory school policing and turn our schools away from a long history of disproportionate harmful treatment of Black, students with disabilities, and students experiencing poverty. There are groups and stakeholders including students from all over the state who believe that removing police is the right thing to do and they are ready to come testify.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Vermont

NAACP

Vermont Legal Aid

Vermont Human Rights Commission

Voices for Vermont's Children

Vermont Center for Independent Living

Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network

League of Women Voters of Vermont

Ann Schroeder, Dummerston VT