

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter in support of an effort by a coalition of Vermont advocacy groups to have an offensive T-shirt removed from all Vermont WalMart stores.

The T-shirt I am referencing shows two stick figures and the words: "I did not hit you. I high fived your face." The WalMart in Berlin, Vt., has already taken the socially conscious step to remove the shirts while they await final approval from WalMart's corporate marketing division.

It is my sincere hope that the corporate marketing division will see the merit in removing this shirt, not only from the Berlin WalMart, but from all Vermont WalMart stores, and perhaps the rest of the country.

The issue with this shirt is that it sends a very mixed and disrespectful message, especially to young people, whom we are trying to raise in a culture of civility, respect and non-violence. While we only have to turn on the television to see violence being used for entertainment purposes, it has no place in the real world; our children should not be given messages which justify violence, and victims of violence should not be subjected to justifications for abuse, even if they come in the form of a poorly worded T-shirt. As we know, there *is* no justification for abuse. I'm sure that the marketing division can come up with some funny slogans which don't seem to excuse violence.

I look forward to working with you to find a solution to this issue.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Phil Scott