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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Wardsboro
—Article Number:.....42414

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Protecting our First Amendment rights

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

RE: "Trump and Republicans are trampling on our most
sacred freedoms" [Letters, Oct. 8]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I would like to wholeheartedly agree with letter writer
Stephen Stearns that we must defend our precious First
Amendment right to speak freely without government censure.
His letter reminds me of the time former Windsor High
School Principal Tiffany Riley was improperly fired by the Mount
Ascutney School Board in 2020 for a comment she posted on her
personal Facebook page.

11 Shamefully, the ACLU of Vermont did not take up the
12 case, but thankfully other First Amendment groups stepped in.
13 Federal District Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford issued a stinging
14 pretrial ruling in 2021 when he wrote “undisputed facts
15 establish” the school district failed to follow established
16 procedures and Tiffany Riley was denied due process.

17 The former principal received a \$650,000 settlement
18 from the school district ending this sad story.

19 Even in Vermont we must be vigilant.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

20

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

21

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

22

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

23

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####