

I am writing in support of this bill. Based on all that we know about systemic racism and the ongoing effects it has on Black Americans, reparations are very overdue. Yes, slavery is over, but racist systems are still very real and impact nearly every facet of life, including employment, wealth, education, home ownership and incarceration.

Since the Jim Crow era where racist hiring practices kept Black workers from opportunities, the Black population continues to have higher rates of unemployment and lower rates of representation in professional and managerial positions. That is not a coincidence, that is causation.

Due to limited employment opportunities over large spans of time, the accumulation of generational wealth is limited.

Racist practices infiltrate our educational systems. Based on how schools are funded, Black communities that experience a higher rate of poverty also experience underfunded schools. This of course leads to limited educational opportunities, and in turn, limited job opportunities and opportunities to accumulate wealth.

Discriminatory housing practicing, such as redlining, have impacted Black Americans access to wealth accumulation and building equity over large spans of time.

Black Americans are incarcerated at a disproportional rate. For example, Black Americans are significantly more likely to get arrested on drug charges than White Americans, despite comparable usage rates. Once arrested, Black Americans are much more likely to be denied bail and more likely to be charged with harsher sentences. Obtaining a job and accumulating wealth is, of course, much harder once incarcerated.

The amount of money that we as American citizens owe Black Americans as result of our racist systems over these hundreds of years is immeasurable, but clearly very high. I feel like I am rambling, but seriously, we could go on and on about this. I haven't even covered generational racial health disparities or loss of family members due to state-based violence, because how can we put a price on one's health or life?

Please continue to work towards abolishing these racist systems, and providing for those who we continue to wrong through reparations.