

I am not opposed to recognizing the adverse treatment of African-American citizens in our state over the years and discussing how to deal with it. However, this bill is concerning for several reasons. 1) Pure cash hand outs remove incentive to work; by contrast for example, benefits of early whites included the granting of land, which still required work to return a standard of living from it. Together with the fact that the amount of cash would also be greater than that of most income levels in the state, this could create more feelings of disunity than unity between races. 2) The two year minimum residency requirement could encourage unanticipated immigration for the collection of this income that Oregon tax payers will have to find some way to furnish, which leads me to 3) This issue really should not be solely an Oregon matter as the issue of slavery was/is national, especially since Oregon was never itself a slave state (though it clearly has shown racial favoritism in many ways since its founding). 4) Finally, it is not clear how many generations this annuity applies to within a family line. For all these reasons, I feel this bill should be tabled. The topic is worth more discussion than the simplification given it in this one page bill.