

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SJM 4

SUBMITTED 03/10/2021

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

SJM 4 urges Congress to enact legislation to begin the implementation of reparation for black Americans based on “slavery and discrimination.” I do not support this urging, so please don’t deign to speak for me!

One hundred sixty years! It’s been nearly 160 years since anyone has owned or been a slave! Slavery is history, it should be taught as such, and anyone with common sense has learned from it and moved on. This bill is just another chapter in the perpetuation of the endless black victimhood industry. It will do nothing but deepen and broaden the divide in this country, and I think it could cause some very dangerous and perhaps violent strife if - God forbid - it passes.

My family arrived in this country long after Emancipation – we owe black Americans nothing in regards to slavery! Not everyone believes the propaganda that black Americans continue to suffer from the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. Americans have paid trillions for failed programs designed to improve the lives of black Americans – the ill-fated “War on Poverty” comes to mind. Nothing we do is ever enough! While perhaps not comparable to the scourge of slavery, many minority groups in this country can righteously claim discrimination, hardship and persecution – are we to pay them too?

The idea that one racial group is to be singled out for special treatment – such as with the payment of reparations - is the purest form of racism. How does that square with the racial obsession we currently see in this Legislature?

Please reject this obscenity and make sure that it does not see the Senate floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith LaHaie