

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJM 4

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

It has been over 30 years since legislation for reparations for African Americans was first introduced to Congress, and it's been reintroduced almost every year since then. Reparations is justice that is owed, and justice that is well past due.

Our country has never fully examined, reckoned with, or accounted for the harms and cruelty of slavery. African Americans have never been compensated for the brutal and inhumane treatment they have endured throughout history and continue to suffer from today. Reparations for African Americans is a moral imperative and an obligation under international human rights law. The U.S. government must investigate and acknowledge the past and present harms against the Black community. But it must also go one step further and actually deliver reparative justice.

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi recently said that reparations is "the only policy platform that can create racial economic equality." Last week, the House Judiciary Committee passed HR 40. I urge the Oregon legislature to part of the change -- please pass SJM 4!

Sincerely,

Stacey Boatright