

Written testimony presented to the Oregon Senate Rules Committee

in FAVOR of HB 2168

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am an elected member of the Portland NAACP Executive Committee and I reside in Multnomah County. I ask you to vote in favor of House Bill 2168.

What is the purpose of a holiday if not to remind us of our history? A holiday says “this is where we’ve been and this is something that is important to us.” It says “never forget this.”

In taking this step to make Juneteenth an officially recognized state holiday in Oregon we say to ourselves, and to our children: we cannot move backwards, we must be honest and realize the scars and the pain of our past, we must always remember. Oregon’s history is complicated, sometimes joyous, sometimes shameful. Juneteenth is a part of that history and in recognizing it we take one small step forward down a long and important path.

As I life-long Oregonian I implore you to pass House Bill 2168.

Thank you considering my testimony.

Dr. Lily Copenagle

Portland, OR