

I am writing this in support of Senate Bill 776. I am an African American woman who has spent my whole life living in Oregon. Racial disparities are present in all aspects of Oregon life but incarceration rates are at a surprising rate. Black Oregonians are imprisoned at a rate that is four times that of white Oregonians. Black Oregonians make up 2.3% of the population. This means that 1% of the Black community is in prison in Oregon. Research shows, that places with high income inequalities have higher incidences of crime. The average yearly salary for a Black American in Oregon is about \$47,000 in comparison to White Oregonians averaging \$93,000 per year. This is reflective of why reparations would be a compelling approach to bridging the wage and inequality issue in Oregon.

Albina is a historically black neighborhood in Portland. This is not because African Americans decided to live there, this is due to redlining that kept black Portlanders in one area. Home value was suppressed and education was poor. Because of urban construction, 450 homes in the predominantly black neighborhood were destroyed and those people displaced in the 1950 through the 1970's. This is not too long ago in history. People still are suffering disparities from this alone. This could have helped many Black Oregonians achieve generational wealth with real-estate. In a 2019 census data 72% of White families were reported as homeowners compared to only 42% Black families in Oregon.

Due to ongoing racist practices, Black people in Oregon are continually falling behind in wages, homeownership, health care and education. There is an urgent need for reparations to begin repairing our Black community and keeping Black families together. I am in strong support of Senate Bill 776.

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