

## Testimony in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 776

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I am writing to express my support for Bill 776. A history of oppression cannot be healed until it is acknowledged and addressed. There is an exorbitant amount of evidence and data that shows the effects of our racist history in this country are ongoing. Other “developed” nations who have a shameful history of genocide, segregation, and/or land-grabbing have made very important steps towards acknowledging this past and treating the “wounds” that have been left as a result. South Africa, Canada, and Germany have provided examples of how to take responsibility for a history of wrong-doing through reparations and honest attempts at reconciliation. Oregon began as a “white’s only” state and has a history of anti-Black laws and policies, the impact of which are still very much felt today. As a White person I feel shame for this history and for the lack of action on the part of law-makers. This feeling of shame alerts me to what is important to me and to the value that is being breached. It is not something to be avoided, but rather an important signal for me to respond to, to call on myself and others to address these past and current wrong-doings. Can we please stand on the side of humanity and decency and move this bill forward? Please join me in supporting this bill today.