

Submitter: Caz Novak

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: SB776

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in strong support of SB776, which would establish a Task Force on Reparations.

The United States was founded on enslavement. Its territories and, later, states, not just in the South but throughout the U.S., benefitted directly from enslaved labor, which formed the backbone of what has become the world's largest economy. The legacy of enslavement continues today- Black persons in the United States face systemic barriers to accruing wealth, accessing resources, and receiving equitable pay. Wealth that has been stolen from generations of Black persons continues to benefit white people.

In order to begin the process of reconciliation and working towards a more just, equitable future, monetary repair must happen. Marching is important. Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are critical. Without economic repair, however, true justice will never take place. The harm caused by enslavement can never truly be erased, and no dollar amount could ever accurately make up for the horrors of enslavement and its continued legacy. However, steps can be taken to address this harm, and an excellent first step is a reparations task force.

It is with all this in mind and more that I, a white Oregonian, write to support the passage of this bill in the strongest forms. Reparations must happen- there simply is no other option.

Thank you,