

Submitter: Mary Marchetti

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB776

Good morning thank you for your time. I am writing in fervent support of this bill and urge you wholeheartedly to pass it so that the critical and long overdue work toward reparations in Oregon can commence. As a white person, I am keenly aware of the unearned advantages I have been granted due to the violent system of white supremacy in America and, though no reparative action can undo such harm, reparations offer a crucial step toward justice and healing Black community members and right relationship with our history as a collective people. Our contemporary society is built upon profound violence toward Black people and Oregon is no exception. The history of Oregon is, in fact, one of pervasive anti-Black racism and exclusion that clearly delineates why Oregon is 87% white in 2023. While we cannot change the choices made by (collective) white ancestors, we absolutely can control the choices we make today. Please make the choice to support this bill and move history in a better direction. I leave you with this quote from Aurora Levins Morales:

"Acknowledging our ancestors' participation in the oppression of others and deciding to balance the accounts on their behalf leads to greater integrity and less shame. ... It becomes possible to see the choices we make right now as extensions of those inherited ones, and to choose more courageously as a result."

Thank you.