



Oregon Black Resource Network
401 NE 19th Ave #200
Portland, OR 97232

joinus@obrn.org
<https://obrn.org>
+1.503.855.0445

February 24, 2025

Representative Thuy Tran
Chair, House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, H-285
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tran:

The Oregon Black Resource Network (OBRN) is committed to advancing racial equity and addressing the systemic disparities that have long affected Black Oregonians in the legal and justice systems. We are convening and informing our communities and policymakers about the importance of reparative justice in creating a more equitable and inclusive Oregon.

For generations, Black communities in Oregon have faced systemic barriers in housing, education, employment, and healthcare. These inequities stem from a history of discriminatory policies, such as exclusionary laws that once barred Black individuals from owning property or participating fully in civic life. The effects of these injustices persist today:

- In 2018, 21% of Black households in Oregon experienced food insecurity, compared to 9.9% of white households.
- Reports of hate and bias incidents in Oregon increased by 229% from 2020 to 2023, rising from 910 to 2,932 incidents.
- As of December 2024, Oregon's unemployment rate stood at 4.1%, with Black Oregonians likely facing disproportionately higher rates due to systemic inequities.

At OBRN, we believe that addressing these disparities requires bold and thoughtful action. Reparative measures—whether financial or non-financial—offer an opportunity to invest in the economic and social well-being of Black communities while fostering a stronger and more unified Oregon.

We recognize the important work being done by policymakers to explore solutions that address historical injustices and their ongoing impacts. House Bill 2995 represents one such effort to examine reparative justice through a task force dedicated to studying these issues.



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OBRN encourages community members to learn more about this initiative and engage in conversations about its potential impact on racial equity in our state.

As an organization, we remain steadfast in our efforts to educate, advocate for equity-based policies, and provide resources that empower Black Oregonians. We are actively hosting community discussions, sharing research on systemic inequities, and collaborating with other organizations to advance meaningful change.

We invite all Oregonians to join us in this vital work by participating in public dialogue about reparative justice and its role in building a more equitable future for everyone.

Together, we can create a state where all communities thrive.

In solidarity,

Kendall Martin
President, Board of Directors
Oregon Black Resource Network (OBRN)
Email: president@obrn.org
Phone: (503) 597-9190