

Submitter: George McGuire

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

As a white person, I can only learn about the Black experience in America by listening to Black people. From those I have met, whose books I have read, or interviews I have listened to, there is an obvious disparity in privilege and safety nets when it comes to inherited wealth and economic status when comparing white and Black Americans. It is criminally unfair that white people in this country enjoy economic freedom to continue to build their wealth for themselves and their families when the basis for that wealth was formed by profiting off of the labor of Black people. We owe their families what is rightfully theirs. We cannot continue to sweep our collective history under the rug because it is convenient for us as white people who have all benefitted from slavery and free labor from Black people, as the actions of our ancestors continue to have direct impact on the livelihood and wellbeing of entire lineages who are our neighbors and fellow Americans today. Reparations for Black people are at the root of beginning to undo racism in America. It is time to take responsibility and real action towards reparations, and while I believe that should take the form of monetary reimbursement at the very least, I am open to other possibilities that the task force deems appropriate.