

Kamelah Adams
1631 NE Broadway St
Portland, OR 97232

February 24, 2025

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 299
Kamelah Adams, Owner of Mimi's Fresh Tees & Co-founder of PDX Love Over Hate

Dear Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kamelah Adams, and I am a third-generation Portland resident, the owner of Mimi's Fresh Tees, and the co-founder of PDX Love Over Hate. I am here today to express my strong support for HB 2995, a bill that recognizes the deep and lasting harm caused by Oregon's exclusion laws and systemic barriers that have prevented Black families like mine from accessing generational wealth.

My family, like so many others in Oregon's Black community, has lived through generations of displacement, discrimination, and exclusion. From the Black exclusion laws that forbade our ancestors from settling in this state to the redlining and gentrification that have pushed us out of the communities we helped build, we have faced systemic barriers at every turn. My grandparents, who worked hard to build a stable home in Portland, saw their opportunities restricted due to racist housing policies. My parents witnessed their neighborhoods change overnight as gentrification displaced Black families, stripping us of the ability to build and maintain wealth. And today, I continue to experience the impact of these injustices as a small business owner navigating systems that were not designed for my success.

HB 2995 is a critical step toward addressing these historic wrongs. It acknowledges the economic devastation caused by these exclusionary policies and seeks to provide tangible support to Black Oregonians who have been systematically denied the opportunity to thrive. This bill is not about handouts—it is about repair. It is about recognizing that past harm has ongoing consequences and that we have a responsibility to create pathways for economic justice.

As an entrepreneur, I have worked tirelessly to create opportunities not just for myself but for my community. Through Mimi's Fresh Tees and PDX Love Over Hate, I have used my platform to amplify social justice issues and encourage intentional spending that supports Black-owned businesses. But individual effort is not enough to undo generations of exclusion. We need policies like HB 2995 to ensure that Black Oregonians have access to the resources and opportunities that were systematically denied to our ancestors.

I urge you to support HB 2995 and take a meaningful step toward justice for Oregon's Black community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kamelah Adams
Owner, Mimi's Fresh Tees
Co-founder, PDX Love Over Hate