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On Behalf Of:

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Hello, I'm writing this testimony because let's face it - it is an open secret in Oregon that it used to be a "whites only" state back in 1844. As a black woman, born and raised in Oregon, I am extremely uncomfortable with traveling down to Southern Oregon, because of the everlasting effect that the Ku Klux Klan had in Medford back in 1921. I know that there are many other black people who feel the same way as I do.

Now, I could talk about the injustices that black people have endured back then, but I would like to highlight just some of the injustices that my own family have endured first hand:

-Back in 1989, my father and my pregnant mother were being antagonized by a police officer. It escalated to the point where the officer hit my mother in the stomach with his baton and she fell to the ground. My father ended up being arrested for consequently fighting the police officer after what he did to my mother. Because of the incident, my mother went into labor earlier than expected, thus my brother was born. My mother was told that because my brother did not have any abnormalities, she could not sue the police officer who went out of his way to harm her. The case was subsequently buried.

-16 years later, the same son, my brother, who was born early due to the actions of the police officer, was arrested in a public bus trying to go to school. The TriMet driver had saw the police were looking for a man and mistook my brother for said man. The driver calls the police and they come to arrest my brother. My brother did NOT look like the person in question at all, the only similarity they had was they were both black men. My brother insisted that the officer call our mother and he showed them his school ID, proving it wasn't him. They did not listen and they ended up arresting him. My parents had to go down to the police station to prove that my brother is completely innocent. They finally realized that they had the wrong person and let my brother go. Had they listened, that would've never escalated to the point it did.

-Last year, for New Years Eve 2024, my aunt hosted a New Year's Eve get together at the Holiday Inn by the airport. My aunt did this the year prior with no problems, and she got permission from a staff member to host it again. Everyone who came had booked either 1 or several rooms for the night. We had set up an area in the corner in the lobby and we were chatting amongst each other for about an hour or so. I want to

say around 11:30pm, we were told by a staff member who was working that we were too loud, and we apologized and quieted down. Roughly 5 minutes later, the same staff member came back and told us that we had to leave. Confused, my aunt went to talk to the staff member again to resolve the situation and they seemingly did. I saw them hug with my own eyes. A couple moments after that I noticed the staff member was talking on the phone, and something told me that she was calling the police. My intuition was right and police officers came to tell us that we had to leave the premises, even though we paid for rooms. They labeled us as trespassers at this point; it was around 11:55pm - close to midnight. We asked if we could still celebrate new years at midnight and they allowed us. Once midnight struck and we said happy new years to each other, we went back to our rooms to gather our stuff. The police officers came knocking at our doors, telling us to hurry up. Children were crying, and people were embarrassed and traumatized. We didn't do anything wrong, we got permission beforehand, and we were cooperative the entire time. We did not get a refund for our rooms, all we got was a sour end to a wonderful night filled with familial closeness. I have never been treated so harshly in my life.

These are a few out of many experiences that I or others who've faced. It's not about the monetary aspect; it's about the respect, equality and justice I and many other black people deserve after years of blatant racism.