

Submitter: Natalie Smith

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Hello,

I am writing to support the HB 2995 to establish the task force on reparations for Black Oregonians.

This is an essential act to help begin repairing the damage that has been done to this community for decades & centuries. Oregon has previously & continues to be a segregated, systemically racist state - with historic laws written in to the constitution that excluded and marginalized the Black community. This is a reflection of a national issue, and as a state, we can be a force for change.

Due to these systemic discriminatory practices, the Black community has been underserved- and as a result- blamed for their circumstances. From job & housing opportunities, to threats of violence, to access to proper care- statistically, there is a disproportionate difference between Black and White Oregonians. The implications of slavery, racist laws, and segregation continue to impact Black Oregonians on a daily basis- and reparations begin to close that gap & support justice.

It is not about "othering" or giving away "free resources" - it is about repairing past damage and promoting equity.

Please, in the consciousness of the times- both current and past, and the needs of countless individuals at heart, support HB 2995. It is what's right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.