

Dear House Committee,

My name is Dani Renner, and I am writing today in strong support of HB 2995, which seeks to establish the Task Force on Reparations in Oregon. This initiative represents a vital step toward acknowledging and addressing the systemic injustices and economic disparities that have disproportionately affected African Americans in our state for generations.

Oregon has a long and troubling history of racial exclusion, discrimination, and economic disenfranchisement. From Black exclusion laws in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to redlining and discrimination in housing, education, and employment, African Americans in Oregon have faced barriers to opportunity and wealth accumulation that continue to have lasting effects today. These injustices have contributed to persistent disparities in income, homeownership, health outcomes, and access to quality education.

The establishment of this task force is a necessary and responsible effort to study and develop proposals for both financial and non-financial reparations. A thorough and data-driven examination of historical injustices and their ongoing impacts will provide the foundation for meaningful action. By investigating the root causes of racial inequities and proposing concrete solutions, this task force can help move our state toward a more just and equitable future.

Additionally, this task force plays a critical role in public education. Many Oregonians are not fully aware of the systemic injustices that have shaped the economic and social landscape for Black communities. Through research, dialogue, and education, this effort will foster a greater understanding of the role that state policies have played in racial inequality and help build momentum for meaningful change.

Reparations are not just about financial compensation; they are about repairing the harm done and ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to thrive. This can take many forms, including educational opportunities, business development initiatives, homeownership support, and other structural changes that help address the disparities caused by past injustices.

I urge the committee to support and pass HB 2995 to establish this task force. Oregon has an opportunity to be a leader in acknowledging historical wrongs and taking steps toward racial justice. This effort is not just about the past—it is about the future we want to build together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dani Renner