

Written Testimony

Contact Information:

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Organization N/A

Bill Number:

HB 2995 - Establishes the Task Force on Reparations and directs the task force to study and develop proposals for financial and nonfinancial reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent, develop appropriate methods for educating the public about the task force's findings, and recommend appropriate remedies based on the task force's findings.

Position:

☒ Support

☐ Oppose

☐ Neutral

Written Testimony:

I strongly support the implementation of reparations for the Black community in Portland, Oregon. Oregon has a documented history of exclusionary practices, having originally been established as a "whites-only" state. This history has led to deeply embedded structural inequalities that continue to impact African American residents today.

From redlining and gentrification to discriminatory lending practices and housing policies, the Black community has systematically been denied opportunities for wealth accumulation and economic stability. Implicit biases and systemic barriers have contributed to disparities in income, homeownership, loan approvals, and overall quality of life for Black Oregonians. These historical injustices necessitate intentional and meaningful reparative measures to address the ongoing impacts of institutional racism.

Reparations would serve as a necessary step toward rectifying these wrongs by investing in Black communities, ensuring equitable access to housing, business opportunities, education, and healthcare. Such policies would not only acknowledge past injustices but also create a pathway for economic empowerment and generational wealth-building within the Black community.

I urge the Oregon legislature to take decisive action in addressing these disparities through a well-structured reparations program that acknowledges the harm done and fosters long-term economic justice for African American citizens in Portland and beyond.

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my written testimony will be publicly available on OLIS and accessible via search engines.

☒ I Agree