

Submitter: Meg Bender-Stephanski

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

My name is Meg Bender-Stephanski and I am a Portland resident. I have lived in Portland for 8 years and when I moved here and learned about the history of the treatment of African Americans I was appalled. Oregon has a particularly violent and discriminatory history and although we have made progress, the long-term impacts can still be seen today. Oregon is incredibly white, and areas that historically housed African-Americans due to redlining are actively being gentrified with these families and seniors being priced out. This history is only part of what African-Americans have faced in the U.S. and Oregon, and therefore, as a white Oregonian, would like to offer my wholehearted support for reparations, both financial and nonfinancial for Oregonians of African-American descent. I think this is an important step in the right direction working toward a more equitable future for all Oregonians.