

Submitter: Jesse Weeg

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Dear House Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2995. Oregon has a long history of racism towards Black Oregonians. From its inception, Oregon excluded Black Americans from owning land. In the mid-century, we saw the Vanport Flood wipe out an entire neighborhood that was largely populated by Black folks. A decade or so later, the Albina neighborhood, another majority Black area was torn through with ODOT's building of the I-5 highway. And in more recent years, gentrification has priced many Black Portlanders out of their family homes.

Reparations are a necessary piece of undoing the disproportionate harm that has been brought upon Black Oregonians, specifically Black Portlanders where I live. By uplifting those who have faced the brunt of unfair policy, we'll be laying the ground work for a more positive future by making a commitment to no longer leave anyone behind.

HB 2995 is a crucial piece of putting Oregon on a better track when it comes to racism and discrimination in our history and future.

Thank you,  
Jesse Weeg