



25 February 2025

Re: House Bill 2995

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

The Alliance of Black Nurses Association of Oregon (ABNAO) supports House Bill 2995, which creates the Task Force on Reparations to investigate and formulate meaningful financial and non-financial solutions to rectify historical and ongoing injustices that have impacted African American communities, well-being, and economic stability.

The case for reparations for African Americans is rooted in the historical and ongoing legacy of slavery, segregation, and discrimination in the United States. For centuries, African Americans have faced systemic oppression and inequality, which has resulted in significant economic, social, and political disadvantages here in Oregon, and across the country. Reparations would seek to address this ongoing harm and remedy these injustices.

As nurses, we'd like to add the perspective of health as a case for reparations:

- Black babies are twice as likely to die in their first year of life than white babies. Black mothers are nearly 3 times as likely to die during childbirth than white mothers. Both statistics remain true even when controlling for education and wealth.
- African Americans have higher rates of morbidity and mortality than white Americans for almost all health outcomes, an inequality that increases with age (CDC).
- Race-related stress has a greater impact on health among African Americans than diet, exercise, smoking, or socioeconomic status
- Neighborhoods with the highest rates of health crises such as childhood asthma and diabetes are those that were historically redlined.

Reparations would be a powerful step towards eliminating health inequities and promoting greater economic and social justice for Black Oregonians. It is surely a complex issue that will require careful consideration and discussion, for which the Task Force on Reparations will be well suited. We strongly urge the Committee to support the passage of House Bill 2995.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Black Nurses Association of Oregon