

Submitter: Linh Oliver

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and members of the committee:
My name is Linh Oliver, I'm a recent graduate from the University of Notre Dame and a lifelong Oregonian. I am writing to express my strong support of HB 2995, and to urge your support in kind.

One of the most common arguments against reparations is that slavery is a relic of the past, which no one currently alive took part in or has been affected by. This is a misconception. The legacy of slavery is visible in the sharecropping system that immediately followed its abolition; it's visible in the brutality of the Jim Crow era, in the bloody massacres in Tulsa, Elaine, and countless other cities. It's visible in the nationwide patterns of gentrification and housing segregation, and in the enduring disparities in our justice system. Some studies in epigenetics even suggest that American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) carry the traumas of slavery in their genes. While the system of chattel slavery itself may be behind us, its impact remains.

Reparations, then, are not merely an acknowledgment of harms suffered in the past - they are also a necessary intervention to disrupt harms being suffered in the present. It is necessary to address the wide disparities in outcome Black Americans face in the present day: in wealth, health, access to housing, education, employment, etc. HB 2995 is a much-needed step in the direction of justice -- once again, I strongly urge your support of this bill. Thank you.