

Submitter: Zave Payne

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I urge all legislators to support HB 2995 to create a task for that studies and develops proposals for financial and nonfinancial reparations for Black Oregonians. Over 160 year ago, formerly enslaved Black Americans were promised “40 acres and a mule” as reparations for over 200 years of forced slavery. That promise to Black Americans, like so many others, has gone unkept. Oregon has the opportunity to become a model for our nation in redressing the centuries of state-sanctioned crimes committed against Black Americans, which still leave an impact on Black peoples and communities today. If we want to begin to address the widening wealth gap between Black and white Oregonians, address the inequitable funding differences for majority-Black schools, and begin to reverse the continuing cycles of poverty Black people are born into, then the time to do so is now. Once again, I urge the legislature in the strongest possible manner to support HB 2995.