

Submitter: Marguerite McKean

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I am a white, lifetime resident and school teacher in Oregon. In my line of work, and in my residence, I see in many ways the effects that Oregon's white supremacist history and laws have affected our Black neighbors, friends, and families. One stark example is the gentrification in my childhood neighborhood of NE Portland, where many of the families I grew up with have been priced out of their homes, and where the demographics have changed dramatically since the mid 1990s as the housing market and development pushed prices out of the reach of those without generational wealth. I teach in a school which serves a largely affluent community, and the demographic differential between Black and all other racial groups is marked in a way that is, in my personal experience, unique to the Pacific Northwest. I have also heard heartbreaking accounts from my Black friends and colleagues of the treatment they have received from Portland Police, area schools and institutions, and the wider Oregon community. Therefore I wholeheartedly support the creation of this task force to begin the process of critically codifying Oregon's historical treatment of Black residents as well as current effects of such history and embedded culture, and working toward reconciliation and reparation.

Sincerely,  
Marguerite McKean  
Beaverton