

Submitter: Jesse Remer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Testimony in Support of HB 2995 – Task Force on Black Reparations

As a white, Oregon-born resident, I strongly support HB 2995 to create a task force on Black reparations. Oregon's history of anti-Black policies—including the Black exclusion laws of the 1800s, redlining, displacement from the Albina district, and the denial of access to generational wealth—continues to harm Black Oregonians today. These injustices manifest in racial wealth gaps, health disparities, and systemic barriers to housing and education.

To create a culture of nurturing, we must lift especially those who've been harmed by our policies—we must commit to our black and brown and native people and heal both forwards and backwards. Addressing past wrongs through reparations is not just a moral obligation but a necessary step toward equity. I would especially add this should include native indigenous peoples of Oregon. This task force is essential for meaningful progress, ensuring that those harmed by historical injustice have a voice in shaping solutions. I urge lawmakers to support HB 2995 and take this step toward justice and healing for Oregon's Black communities.