

Submitter: Mallory Mead

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

2/26/25

Dear House Committee,

I am writing in support of establishing the Task Force on Reparations. This is long overdue, in a state with a deep and often hidden history of racism against Black Americans. Oregon has a history of black exclusion laws that remained until 1926. Racism continued with Oregon having the largest per capita membership in the Ku Klux Klan of the United States in the 1920's. In the 1960's segregation excluded Black people from restaurants and public spaces, and in the 70's and 80's, Portland police committed acts of violence, murder, and intimidation against Black people. The racist policy of redlining in the 70's and 80's hurt and displaced Portland's black communities. As a result, Portland is one of the whitest cities in the United States. White supremacists groups have remained present and active in Oregon to this day.

Growing up in Oregon, I didn't learn about our racist history at school. We learned about what happened in the South, but not what happened here. Since Oregon is still one of the whitest states, we didn't have to look that history in the eye.

It is long overdue that we address Oregon's history of racism and take action to bring justice to the harm that Oregon policies, white supremacy groups, and police have caused to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Your constituent,

Mallory Mead
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