

Written testimony presented to the Oregon House Committee on Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

in FAVOR of HB 2995

February 25, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the Committee on
Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans, thank you for the opportunity to
comment on HB 2995.

As a life-long Oregonian, I ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 776.

I am white and have benefitted tremendously from racism. My parents benefited from it before
me. I have benefited financially, medically, educationally, and emotionally. I do not have to seek
this benefit out, and do not even need to be aware of the ways in which I benefit.

House Bill 2995 represents a long overdue, but very important step in our process of
acknowledging the deep and devastating damage our culture of inequity has caused, and in
taking a first step towards addressing that harm. I support reparations and believe it is our duty
to pursue all avenues of achieving it.

We cannot claim ignorance of the deep and shameful past of Oregon's lawmakers, and the
harmful legacy that we have inherited from them. Nor can we claim ignorance of the harm that is
being caused today through current and long-standing injustices and the generations of wealth
building that has been denied to Oregonians through discriminatory practices and policies,
particularly BIPoC households. But we can say that this stops here. And now.

You can choose to continue the practice of inequity in our state by allowing the compounding
impact of all inequities, past and current, to impact the lives of BIPoC people, or you can take the
opportunity before you and make Oregon a stronger, safer place for all, and a state we can be
proud of and pass Senate Bill 2995.

Thank you considering my testimony.

Dr. Lily Copenagle

Portland, OR