



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS**
CITY OF PORTLAND

City Administrator:
Michael Jordan
Interim Director:
Jeff Selby



February 25, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court St. NE, HR C
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights, I am writing to express our support for HB 2995, which, if enacted, would establish the Task Force on Reparations to research and propose financial and non-financial solutions to help address the past and ongoing injustices that have and continue to impact the lives of African Americans.

The City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights ensures accountability by leading efforts to dismantle systemic oppression through policies, practices, and procedures that create equitable opportunities for Portland's systemically excluded and institutionally oppressed communities. We collaborate with City bureaus to develop racial equity plans that identify and address systemic barriers, advance equitable service delivery, ensure equitable outcomes for communities and staff, and establish mechanisms for measuring and evaluating progress.

The racist history of the United States, Oregon, and Portland have created lasting inequities, leaving a legacy of harm that continues to this day. Public and private systems still function in ways that reinforce income and racial disparities. Reparations, rooted in international law, provide targeted remedies for individuals, groups, or nations who have suffered specific human rights violations.

Reparations are essential for addressing the profound harm caused by racial dehumanization in Oregon, and HB 2995 represents a pivotal first step in recognizing and redressing these injustices. I urge your support for HB 2995.

Sincerely,

Jeff Selby

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