

Submitter: Tamarra Ragland
On Behalf Of: Mamas Be Magic
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Honorable members of the committee,

My name is Tamarra , and I am here to speak in strong support of the proposal to establish the Task Force on Reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent. This bill represents a pivotal step toward addressing the historical and ongoing harms caused by slavery, systemic racism, and the discriminatory policies that have disadvantaged African-Americans in this state and across the nation.

We recognize that the legacy of slavery, segregation, and exclusion has had profound and lasting effects on African-American families, communities, and individuals. From unequal access to education, healthcare, and housing to the continued economic disparities that persist today, these injustices have not only shaped our past but continue to impact the present.

The creation of a task force focused on studying and developing proposals for reparations—both financial and non-financial—provides an essential opportunity to right these historical wrongs and create a more just and equitable future for all Oregonians. This task force will have the opportunity to conduct a thorough examination of the harm done and to propose meaningful remedies that can begin to heal these wounds.

The work of the task force will not be easy, but it is necessary. By developing appropriate proposals for reparations, the task force will provide a blueprint for addressing the continuing economic and social disparities that disproportionately affect the African-American community. In addition, the task force's efforts to educate the public about its findings will help foster understanding, compassion, and support for these necessary actions.

I am particularly encouraged by the inclusion of both financial and non-financial reparations in the scope of this task force's work. These remedies may include direct financial compensation, but also policies designed to increase educational opportunities, healthcare access, job training, and investment in communities that have been historically marginalized. By considering these comprehensive approaches, we acknowledge that the harm done to African-American Oregonians cannot be addressed through money alone, but must also involve structural and systemic change.

Furthermore, I appreciate the direction to recommend remedies based on the task force's findings, ensuring that any proposals are grounded in research and input from the communities most affected by the issues at hand.

This bill is not simply a matter of justice for one community; it is an investment in a future where all Oregonians, regardless of their background, can prosper. Reparations offer an opportunity to break down the barriers that perpetuate inequality and ensure that every person, no matter their race or heritage, can have an equal opportunity to succeed.

I urge the committee to support the establishment of this task force and the continued work toward reparations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tamarra Ragland
Mamas Be Magic Doula Care