

Submitter: Michelle Graas

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I strongly support the establishment of a Task Force on Reparations. The time is long past for Oregonians to engage in this critical work, and I am grateful for Representative Nelson's leadership on this issue.

As a white person, I believe that I and all other white people must champion wealth redistribution and harm repair for Oregonians of African-American descent due to the privilege and power we carry, regardless of whether or not we as individuals have experienced generational wealth. The urgent need for reparations is not solely about money: it is about respect, and it is about justice. It is about acknowledging the systemic harm that Whiteness and white supremacy culture continue to perpetuate, and it is about reexamining and replacing racist political, economic, and social structures.

The work of this Task Force will benefit all Oregonians, despite divisive rhetoric to the contrary. We all deserve to live in a state where we are treated with dignity and respect, and I believe that establishing this Task Force is fundamental to that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.