

Submitter: Grace Fortson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

As a multiracial person (black and white) person living in Oregon, I am haunted by the violent racial history of our state. Having done extensive literary research with a political science lens specifically about Black Portlanders' stories, I can say with certainty that the historical racism of Oregon continues today. Please see this link for historical context and current impacts (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/265861cdea5641ab908a1faeccfb5a0f> ). To give some personal context, my father was bussed as a student in desegregation efforts. My dad is still alive and thriving at only 63 years old. The impacts of racism are not some distant footnote in a textbook, but realities that are living with us today. Without considering how to address these historical wrongs, they continue to impact us in perpetuity. Oregon's history is racist. Without taking action that is ANTI-racist, the racism continues to loom over us. Getting rid of lash laws in our state is not enough to repair the harm that has been done to Black Oregonians. We must take responsibility to right historic and current wrongs. Reparations are a great way to do that. This study gives Oregon the understanding of what might make the most sense for our state. For these reasons and more I urge strong support of HB 2995.