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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Exactly what percent of African-American does someone have to be to get reparations? 50%? 25%? 12.5%? How about 6.25%? Do white African-Americans get reparations?

What happens with descendants of black slave owners? Do people know there were black slave owners in America? So, do they pay reparations to themselves? What about descendants of Irish and Chinese slaves? Where does it end? Some of my ancestors were Mormon Pioneers. They weren't pioneers because it was fun, or because they wanted to explore. They were pioneers because they were heavily discriminated against and persecuted, threatened and attacked. Some were tarred and feathered. They were beaten and killed solely for their group identity. In 1838, Missouri Governor Lilburn Boggs issued an extermination order, granting authority to the state militia to "treat the Mormons as enemies, and be exterminated or driven from the state if necessary." (The order wasn't officially rescinded until 1976 by Governor Christopher S. Bond). After many, many years of persecution like this, and being driven from state to state in the Northeast and Midwest US, thousands made the long and difficult journey to the West on foot. Some went with covered wagons if they could afford it, some went pulling and pushing hand carts, and others went with nothing but the clothes on their back. They suffered from exposure, malnutrition, exhaustion and disease. Some froze to death on the trail. My ancestors had to be rescued after encountering an unexpected blizzard in Wyoming during their trek, and would have died if they had not been rescued. So tell me - will there be a task force to study reparations for descendants of Latter-day Saint pioneers in Oregon?

Can you see the ridiculousness of reparations? Throughout all time, ethnic and religious groups have faced persecution. African-Americans in the US today have the same opportunities as everyone else - meaning some are wealthy and have many opportunities, and others don't. African-Americans in the US are prominent sports figures, entertainers, lawyers, politicians, artists, business owners, teachers, professors, authors, chefs, etc. Do they really need or want handouts from White Saviors? Is this really going to Fix Racism? Reparations are a money grab and everyone knows it. I firmly oppose Oregon HB 2995.