

Submitter: Michael Berry

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Opposition to 2025 HB 2995

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

I was born and raised in Oregon, and I am a citizen of the USA. I oppose this bill, and I encourage you to kill it in Committee.

For at least 60 years now, our society has been making a good faith effort to atone for wrongs that were committed in the past. Those wrongs were committed by people who (almost 100%) are now deceased, against people who (almost 100%) are now deceased. Just look at where these efforts have gotten us. We have too much poverty, too many households with children where the father is not in the home, etc. Are these problems limited to descendants of African-Americans? No. Are these problems more prevalent among African-Americans? Maybe. Be that as it may, these are human problems. Color blind problems.

I think the time has come to end policies of discrimination, e.g., Affirmative Action, Diversity Equity & Inclusion. Let's stop throwing the weight of government, legislation, and "tax and spend" behind social engineering efforts that begin with defining oppressors and oppressed by sex, race, and other characteristics. This is divisive. It is not only wrong, it is ruining the State of Oregon and the nation.

As for the specifics of the bill: if passed, three elected people (the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor) would be tasked with appointing members to an entity called "The Task Force on Reparations". I will argue that the current Senate President, House Speaker, and Governor have shown us by their actions that they lean heavily toward Marxist ideology. It is very likely that if this bill is passed, Oregon's "Task Force on Reparations" will be made up predominately of people with similar leanings. Enough said.

Again- please either kill this bill in Committee.

Thank you.

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