

Submitter: Donald Powers
On Behalf Of: One Nation Under God
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

The policy is fraught with moral and practical questions that advocates have not answered with any consistency. How much of a minority must someone be to be eligible for payments? How many steps removed from racist policies can a descendant be before they are no longer eligible? How much would each descendant receive?

Furthermore, Washington has already used trillions of dollars in taxpayer spending directed at communities that consist of high concentrations of low-income and racial minority individuals and families. Head Start (a federal preschool program enacted under President Lyndon Johnson), Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (federal taxpayer spending for children from low-income areas), the Higher Education Act, and other Great Society programs from the 1960s are all taxpayer-funded attempts to help the disadvantaged and racial and ethnic minorities. Yet these programs have failed for 60 years to help these Americans achieve the good life.

Emotionally, reparations-based policies may feel good, but politically, the policies have a poor track record.