



Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Ebony Collective Coalition, we are an organization that shares the purpose of minimizing all forms of oppression to create black family liberation and leadership by promoting civic engagement, advocacy and leadership pipeline. As a coalition dedicated to economic and social equity, we believe this bill is a crucial step toward acknowledging and remedying systemic injustices that have harmed Black communities for generations in Oregon. We are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2995.

The formation of this task force is essential to ensuring that meaningful reparations—both financial and non-financial—are explored in an intentional and well-researched manner. Oregon has a unique history of exclusionary policies that have contributed to disparities in wealth, education, housing, and health outcomes for African American Oregonians. The task force's work will help identify actionable solutions to rectify these injustices and create pathways toward true equity.

Moreover, this bill provides an opportunity for public education on the history and consequences of systemic racism, fostering a greater understanding of why reparations are necessary. By establishing a clear framework for research and recommendations, the task force will help the state move forward in a way that acknowledges past harms while laying the foundation for a more just and inclusive future.

We urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and ensure that the Task Force on Reparations receives the resources and authority needed to carry out its critical mission. Thank you for your time and commitment to advancing racial equity in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ebony Collective Coalition Board

ShaToyia Bentley
Andrew Jenkins

Rolonda Hale
Meleani Bates



This letter has the support of the following African American businesses, nonprofits and individuals in Oregon.

44 Individuals:

**Lakeitha Elliott,
Abibat Durosimi,
Dominique Martin,
Noni Causey,
Andrew Campbell,
Miranda Lattimore,
Ezell Watson III,
Mariotta Gary-Smith,
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Robert Donaldson,
Lana Robert,
Donald Nixon
Loreal Moise,
Michelle Yemaya Benton,
Tanisha Hiner,
Lydia Jackson,
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Barbara Macon,
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Sammie Lewis,
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**Donte Thomas,
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Corderica Hale-Jones,
Chelsea Bunch,
ZaDora Williams,
Keara Rodela,
Kheoshi Owens,
Amaranta Colindres,
Nina Frazier,
Alexandrea Wilson,
Tori Algee,
Sabrina Williams,
D. Hale,
Bri Williams,
Ayomide Albert,
Umoja Artego,
Elizabeth Amira Streeter,
April Jones,
Camille Greenidge Bass,
Moe Fernandez,
Aundrea Smith**



Businesses & Nonprofits:



Gordly Burch Center for Black Leadership & Civic Engagement, ZEN:MNM, The Leilani foundation, Produce Portland, Smiles in Route Transportation LLC, Black Community of Portland