

Submitter: Joanne Appelgate

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

HB 2995 is an insult to Oregonians. California already played this game to the great expense of their state and to the great embarrassment of their elected officials. Reparations are ridiculous because it is impossible to determine fairly who would qualify, it is not financially feasible or responsible, and it puts more burden on the current generation for issues of past generations. Slavery was never legal in Oregon. Oregon has already put MANY programs in place, and the state's citizens have paid for them, to help disadvantaged Oregonians. Oregon does not have money to light on fire for this kind of virtue signaling pursuit. The state has real needs not being met in the areas of crime and poor education results. Even if Oregon was to attempt to pursue this ridiculous path, it is impossible to determine fairly who would qualify. Just because someone's ancestors came from Africa, does not mean they have been disadvantaged. A person with African-American ancestors might have been from slaves, might have been from tribes that sold slaves, might have been from both. And how is it fair that Oregonians from other minority heritages should pay for the specifically African-American decedents? It would be a much wiser pursuit for the state to encourage fair treatment of all heritages and stop pitting groups against each other. The only way to put past issues behind us is to stop breathing life back into them. Encourage merit, encourage family structure, encourage kindness. Reject attempts to divide. Please vote NO on HB 2995.