

Submitter: Gretchen Bates

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I am writing to oppose HB 2995, a bill to establish a task for to study "Reparations." The State of Oregon is near dire straits in education, business, and natural resources. It is unconscionable that the Legislature would want to waste funds studying Reparations.

First, as everyone knows, the State of Oregon was a free state, and slavery was never legal in this state. Secondly, there is no one alive today in the US who was a slave in the US. Third, there's no one alive today that was ever a slave holder of a slave in the US. Fourth, even a study of reparations, introduces more racism and separation into our society. Fifth, we all know Reparations will never be a reality, so a study is a pointless performative waste of tax-payer funds. A much better use of the Legislature's energy would be to focus on how to deliver reparations for Oregon citizens as a whole. Oregon citizens are due reparations based on the government's poor management of education, taxes, and natural resources. The state of Oregon has failed and every one of these categories, and failed badly. Let's focus on real problems and not make more problems to divide the citizens of Oregon. Please work to promote policies that would improve the lives of all Oregonians. Better education, lower taxes and smart natural resource management are the reparations we need and deserve.