

Submitter: Mathew Birchard

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

HB2995 represents an egregious violation of individual liberty in this state. Telling the residents of Oregon that because we live in a country with a history that included slavery and racism, we must now in a modern era, literally pay the price for our ancestors' actions - and we don't have a choice. This task force will cost tax dollars, directly drawn from the residents of Oregon. That in itself makes this a personal expense for every Oregonian. However, should the Task Force find that reparations should be made, then there will be further actions taken against the citizens of this state.

This creates a clear racial divide within Oregon. This bill is a statement of racial bias at its finest - declaring that all people are not created equal, and that some people are to receive special treatment and consideration based on their race and race alone. Are the elected officials in the state of Oregon so desperate to create conflict and tension within the state that they will stop at nothing to do so? What about the individuals who have legitimately migrated to America and chose to take up residency here in Oregon, perhaps 2-3 generations ago, and perhaps in more recent decades? Should families of Asian descent be forced to pay for something that they themselves suffered, and were not a part of themselves? And if not, then what about families of other origins, such as the Irish, who were also slaves? If so, what reparations will the Asian families of Oregon receive? Are the people of Oregon going to be suddenly faced with a slew of additional fees, taxes, and special considerations or treatments that must be given to people of any descent that is not caucasian?

Again, this bill is 100% based on giving special privilege, consideration, and regard to individuals based on their race. While simultaneously categorizing those of any caucasian descent as being inferior; or perhaps even worse, labeling anyone who is not of African descent as being inferior - A statement that Oregon should find abhorrent.

I ask that the elected officials do one thing and one thing only. Stop pitting Americans against Americans. Stop with the BS games. Focus on the here and now, and work towards a brighter, more unified, and prosperous state. Oregon can be great, if only we can stop with the division and hatred within our communities.