

Submitter: Randy Gilbert
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I grew up in Oregon in a low income mixed race community in East Multnomah County and racism was never even a subject in my Centennial School District. My close friends and classmates were from every background imaginable and we never saw an issue with bullying, hate, or lack of opportunity regarding race. We felt that racism was firmly dead in the early 2000s and we were judged on our character and the quality of person we were. Our black families had business and good jobs right along with our white, Asian, and middle eastern families. I am saddened and disgusted at the idea of trying to force the idea that black folks, my friends and family, should be continued to told that they are victims and can't possibly succeed without a handout. That their hard work and dedication is really of no value and so they have to be given free money because their grandparents and parents were just "too dumb" to make it. They they are owed something just because of the color of their skin. When are we going to stop this harmful victimhood mentality that is plaguing our society? Our black brothers and sisters are smart, capable, resilient, & talented. They do not need a hand out and it will only serve to further victimize and demoralize the black community. If our government wants to help/support/grow our communities then they need to stop looking at the color of someone's skin as a way to judge and start looking at the actual major factors that are impacting their daily lives. For example our low levels of reading and math fluency, the crazy tax in Multnomah county to start and maintain business, and the drug epidemic that is effecting us all. That is what our black and mixed race communities need. Not a subsidies handout where the only true benefactors are bloated government administration positions. We need our real needs addressed, please stop placating and gas lighting us with these WOKE and out of touch nonsense bills. We want real reform and change! Get us back to when Portland and Oregon was a desired place to be and not a laughing stock!