

Submitter: Armaan Singh

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Hi,

I am a resident of Portland, OR and was born in Michigan. I spent my life traveling between India and the states. In my life on this land, I have always been a guest because it is known to me that I stand on a land that does not belong to me, and I walk by railroads & infrastructure that was built by Black people. This country including the white house was built by Black people. And it is an irrefutable fact Black people of this country are owed so much financially and spiritually. We cannot possibly build a better future on a foundation that refuses to acknowledge who built this country and what was done in order to retract that labor. We can pretend Black representation within the systems of capitalism is progress but real progress is rooted in our attempts to reconcile and own our history- one that exploited Black bodies for profit. It is not merely 4 years, or 40 years but rather 400 years of unpaid labor, and reparations are our only way forward. We cannot build a better tomorrow for any child without repairing the lives of generations our greed has altered. I do not know many things, but I do know this without a doubt that until and unless we trace our steps back and repair the harm we've done this country has no future. Reparations are the only way to ensure we move towards a better collective future, without true repair we are doomed in our own delusion of progress.