

Submitter: Robin Lee
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

I write in strong opposition to this bill. The idea of requiring people alive today to make up for acts of the past is unreasonable. I have never owned a slave. I'm a second-generation U. S. citizen. My parents and grandparents didn't own slaves. If some prior ancestors did own slaves, it would not have been in this country. So nothing is owed to anyone by me. I'm pretty sure that is the same for 99.9% of Oregonians as well as citizens of the other 49 states.

If there is actually anyone in the state—or country—actually enslaved, that should be handled by penalized the slave-owner, not the rest of us. Oregon has laws against slavery, kidnapping, etc.

The idea of reparations is "racist" itself at its core! It's meant to divide us. It's meant to put us in categories that diminish some more than others. The "reparations" idea is in itself responsible for failing to encourage personal effort. That will keep 'victims' victimized by the label that they can't achieve something on their own. And the idea that someone other than me is responsible for what I may achieve denies the possibility of accomplishing one's best. It implies some are incapable of pursuing their (own) happiness and need to be "taken care of".

Ironically, several of the submissions in support of proceeding with a task force are written by individuals who cited establishing businesses for themselves. Huh? Exactly how were they then harmed by some interactions in generations past?

I encourage the committee to consider the harm that the idea of reparations will do. This bill should be scrapped.