



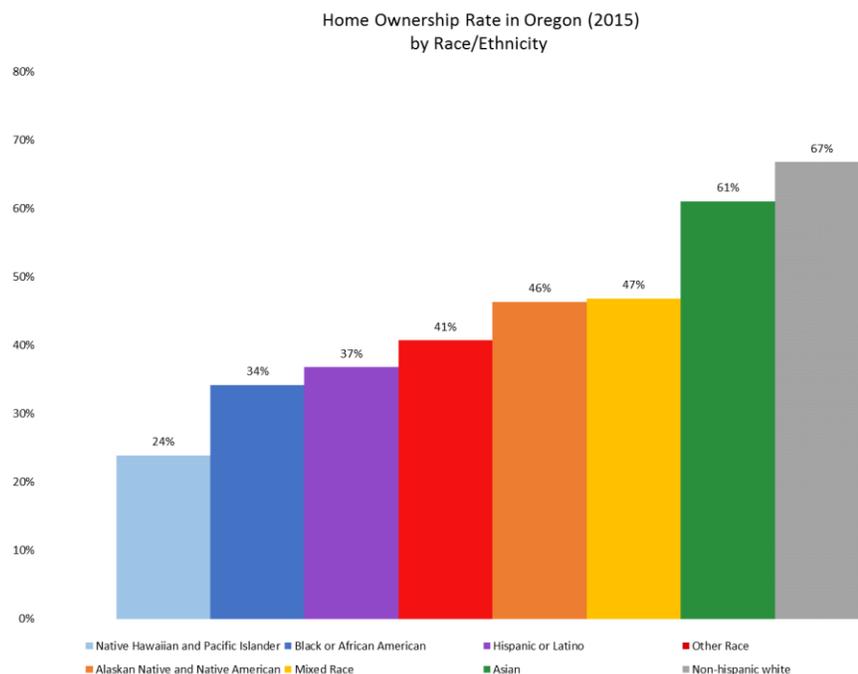
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2010
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek
March 9, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning in support of House Bill 2010.

For most families in Oregon and across the country, home ownership is one of their most significant wealth-building opportunities, providing economic stability that can be passed down through generations. However, home ownership rates are not equal across racial lines. The disparities are stark and rooted in historic injustices that have festered for too long.

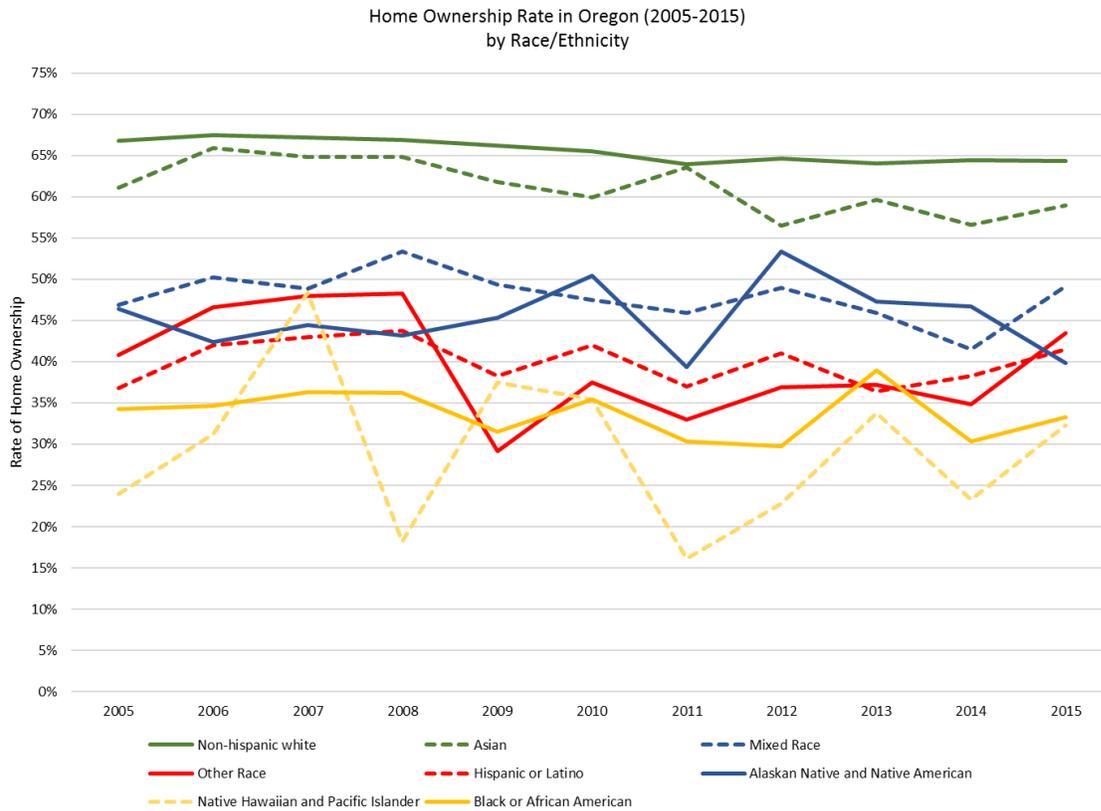
In 2015, 67 percent of non-Hispanic white households owned their homes in Oregon, compared to 46 percent of Native American and Alaskan Native households, 37 percent of Latino households, 34 percent of Black households, and 24 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander households.



Source: Author's tabulation of 1-year ACS data on tenure by race/ethnicity.

Families of color have lower homeownership rates for a range of reasons: the legacy of harmful policies such as redlining, discriminatory lending practices, and the destructive and ongoing impacts of the housing collapse and Great Recession.

In order to ensure equal opportunity for all Oregonians, we must confront these racial disparities in home ownership. Furthermore, in order to truly solve Oregon’s housing crisis, we must address the full spectrum of housing issues, including ways to increase home ownership.



Source: Author’s tabulation of 1-year ACS data on tenure by race/ethnicity.

House Bill 2010 creates a task force that will assess barriers to home ownership for people of color in Oregon and provide the legislature with recommendations to increase home ownership. I believe this work will help us make progress toward addressing both the current housing crisis and the broader goal of increasing equality and access to opportunities for all Oregonians.

First, removing barriers for Oregonians of color who want to access the dream of home ownership will release pressure on the rental market as more families are able to buy homes.

Second, increasing home ownership among families of color will help close the racial wealth gap that threatens our values as Oregonians, as well as our long-term economic prosperity as a state.

The average white family has 13 times the wealth of the average African-American family, according to a 2014 PEW Charitable Trusts research study. There is a growing body of research from economists and economic institutions finding that inequality hinders economic growth and prosperity, while racial inclusion and greater equality contribute to sustainable economic growth and success.

As the legislature considers policies to increase first-time home ownership, it is essential that we focus on increasing home ownership for families of color to address the structural barriers that have resulted in these disparities. I hope that you will support House Bill 2010.

Thank you.