

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
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Senate Committee on Human Services  
Testimony in Support of HB 4134  
February 20, 2018, 1 pm, Hearing Room B

Chair Sen. Sara Gelser, Vice-chair Sen. Tim Knopp, Sen. Dennis Linthicum, Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Sen. Rob Wagner:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a testimony related to HB 4134. My name is Nicole Rowe, and I am a member of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. At the request of OCBA, I am submitting this testimony on behalf of James Morris, Chair of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs and the Chairs of the Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Hispanic Affairs and Commission for Women, each of which supports HB 4134 and serve as advocates for all communities of color and women.

The purpose of this testimony is to urge your support of HB 4134 and to provide a voice for those who have been impacted by discriminatory housing restrictions in Oregon. This bill is an active step away from the inhumane principles that the Oregon Legislature once enacted and a step towards moral judgement based on the grounds of ethics not racism.

Ownership through deeds and titles of real property, since the early creation of the United States, always have been the foundation for building wealth in this nation. Thus, the legal intent to restrict or prohibit ownership of real property by certain individuals is substantial evidence of systemic barriers. We must confront our past with similar legal intent, and provide procedures to remove these barriers accordingly. Although the Fair Housing Act and state law ORS 93.270 prohibits the enforcement of discriminatory language of a real property title, written discriminatory language will always be a reflection of our iniquitous history.

By supporting of HB 4134, together, we will continue to move the needle of Oregon's moral barometers and set high standards for our future. As a member of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs and citizen of Oregon, I emphatically urge your support for HB 4134.

Thank you,

Nicole Rowe, Member, Commission on Black Affairs

Chanpone Sinlapasai, Chair,  
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific  
Islander Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair,  
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

James Morris, Chair  
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair  
Oregon Commission for Women

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

**Chair:**

James Morris

**Vice Chair:**

Musse Olol

**Commissioners:**

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Jamal T. Fox  
Mariotta Gary-Smith  
Kayse Jama  
Lawanda Manning  
Nicole Rowe  
Gwendolyn Trice

**Legislative Members:**

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