



June 22, 2020

Senate President Peter Courtney  
House Speaker Tina Kotek  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek,

The recent and tragic deaths of David McAtee, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd are unfortunately not an isolated incident or a result of a “few bad apples”. Systemic racism has persisted in the United States for centuries. This injustice has inflicted damage on the physical and psychological well-being of our Black Students. This is nothing new. Police brutality, intimidation, and acts of racism constantly pose a direct threat to our Black Students, faculty and staff. The recent protests across the country that call to action justice and much needed change are a completely legitimate response to generations of systematic, racist oppression that has plagued Black communities since the inception of the United States.

ASOSU is dedicated to supporting students throughout their college experience. It is the organization’s responsibility to maintain a presence in the Oregon legislature which is why I am telling you this, that you must support initiatives and policy changes towards police accountability. Police brutality, intimidation, and acts of racism constantly pose a direct threat to our Black Students, faculty and staff. We ask you to think about the safety and well-being of those who have been subjected to violence and hate all their lives. Our students need your help, you have the power to make these changes, you have the power to implement the hard work of generations This government sponsored violence has gone on for too long.

Stop the violence. Stop the loss of innocent lives.

At OSU-Cascades, we feel the impact of systemic racism and Oregon’s troubling history for its residents of color. Black Students at OSU-Cascades and all across Oregon should feel safe. As students, they should be worried about their studies, their internships, their opportunities, and the overall college experience. Black Students should not have to worry about their safety when walking home, driving to campus, going to the store, or any time. OSU-Cascades students



support the work being done to ensure that police across Oregon are held accountable for their actions. OSU-Cascades students should feel safe in Central Oregon.

ASOSU and ASCC recognize and deeply appreciate the work that is being done and has been done by the People of Color Caucus. These representatives understand that systemic change is desperately needed and have dedicated themselves to this fight and work for quite some time.

ASOSU and ASCC support the move of the Oregon Legislature to examine much needed police reform and develop ways to support and uplift Black communities in Oregon. ASOSU and ASCC call upon the Oregon Legislature to invest in education, health care, and mental health. Investing in these programs will not only uplift the livelihoods of Oregon students but also in the safety and well-being of Oregon's Black communities.

**BLACK FUTURES MATTER. BLACK CHILDREN MATTER. BLACK DREAMS MATTER.  
BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER. BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

In Solidarity,

Isabel Nuñez Pérez, ASOSU President 2020-2021

Jade Warner, ASCC President 2020-2021