



July 13, 2020

Senate President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair, Legislative Emergency Board
Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, Co-Chair, Legislative Emergency Board
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Emergency funding for the Oregon Cares Fund for Black Relief and Resiliency

President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, and Members of the Emergency Board,

The time is now—we need to speak up, and speak clearly:

We believe that Black lives matter.

We support the actions around the country which demand justice for George Floyd—a Black man who should be alive today—and justice for all Black people whose lives have been cut short by racialized violence.

We join the call for accountability and concrete change to end racial injustice and the brutality that it gives rise to. We support the movement to dismantle systemic racism. We know that systemic racism contributes to economic, social, and health disparities that directly impact our county.

We must, therefore, become an active part of the remedy. We are writing to respectfully urge you to support the Funding of the Oregon Cares Fund for Black Relief and Resiliency. The need is evident as the COVID-19 pandemic has showcased that BIPOC communities and businesses have been disparately impacted by this public health pandemic.

Recently, advocates, leaders and concerned community members called on state and local elected leaders to create a plan “to specifically address prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery for Black children, families, and community.” Specifically, we support funding of the Oregon Cares Fund for Black relief and resiliency. This fund would provide a \$62 million targeted investment in the Black community from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. We also urge policy makers to direct resources in a targeted and strategic manner that embraces culturally-specific pathways to ensure success.

As one of the most diverse counties in the state of Oregon, we hope to partner with the state and community members to ensure a more just future for all Oregonians. We greatly appreciate your attention to this pressing matter.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Chair

Pamela Treece, Washington County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Treece". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.