

Thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of SB 619! What an absurd proposed bill and a waste of taxpayer dollars and legislative time! With over 4000 bills introduced this session; I am appalled this one has been granted a public hearing,

I am trying to understand what purpose it would serve to provide reparation just because a Black American can demonstrate slave heritage and have identified as Black for the past 10 years. Yet, the bill becomes more preposterous when each qualified Black person would receive \$123,000 per year for their lifetime! Yet, every taxpayer, regardless if their ancestors were slave owners, would be expected to pay this. I doubt my Irish ancestors, who experienced poor and inhumane treatment when migrating to American, owned any slaves. The Irish were not seen as equals and were housed in poor, filthy portions of town and faced religious persecution. The Irish men worked in menial and dangerous jobs such as the coal mines or railroads. Women were servants or domestic workers. We cannot undo the history of our country, but we can learn from it. Paying reparation will not solve anything. If we start down this path, where does it stop? We should not be paying people to ease our conscience. Instead, we should be trying not to repeat history on this and many other issues. This bill will simply keep Black Americans down and cause more racial divide in our state.

Another issue with this proposed bill is financing. What would be the funding source and the approximate cost of this bill? Are you willing to take away from education, public safety, senior citizens or maybe our veterans? We cannot continue to raise individual and business taxes to pay for these unaffordable bills. Looking at the slate of proposed bills, many of Oregon's state agencies are seeking increases in their fees or license rates at the expense of the citizens. While we may be seeing an increase of California citizens moving to Oregon, you are seeing many businesses and individuals moving out of state, due to tax increases and governmental regulations.

In closing, I strongly urge you to put a stop to this bill!