

Dear Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

As a life-long resident of Oregon, I have lived in both Southern Oregon and Northern Oregon. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. I agree with the position outlined by the Oregon Health Equity Task Force, who state, "HB 2337 acknowledges that Oregon's very founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and while the Black exclusionary laws are no longer on the books, the perpetuating and damaging impact of these and other racist policies continue to exist within our present-day policies and systems. Further, this bill signals the need for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates strategies and investments to address health inequities."

As a white man, I have enjoyed the privilege of escaping targeted acts of racism. For my family and friends who are BIPOC Oregonians, I have seen how racism in our state undermines their ability to live safely and to pursue happiness and peace in their daily lives. My perceptions are my own, and my experience has been sheltered throughout my life, most of which has been lived in Clackamas County. I hope that by adding my voice I can help my community become less racist. I deeply appreciate the work of this bill's sponsors to help Oregon jettison its racist ideals. I strongly support HB 2337.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this written testimony, and I regret that I may not be able to the hearing in person to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

Dan Serres