

Social inequality and systematic racism have been a part of this world for way too long. And what the states of Oregon and Louisiana did with their racist justice system needs to be addressed. The United States Supreme Court just ruled on April 20, 2020 in regards to the Ramos v. Louisiana case. This case also affects Oregon. In this ruling the majority of justices ruled that the nonunanimous jury decisions, in which Oregon and Louisiana used for years to put people of color and poor backgrounds into prisons, were unfair, racist, and unconstitutional. The justices even wrote how Oregon made the nonunanimous jury verdicts law to make sure people of color were still sent to prison. This was done by two people of color being put on the jury, but only ten out of the twelve jurors were needed for a conviction. This made the accuser not be able to say that they weren't judged by their peers. Louisiana and Oregon were the last two states to still implement these racist injustices. Even though this law was found to be unconstitutional and an old act of racism in the state of Oregon, the Oregon District Attorney Association wants to fight the retroactivity of it! So only those now going to trial have this right and only the 279 or so on direct appeal have a case to argue. Why is Oregon's government fighting these racist injustices and not giving the other two thousand or so cases a chance at a fair trial?? Is it because of the money or they don't want to put in the extra work? Do black , brown, and /or poor lives matter? Because if any of us truly mattered than they would fix all of these inequalities and give the thousands of cases a chance at true justice and not fight the retroactivity of the Ramos v Louisiana ruling. We need to come together and approve this bill because that is what is right! We need to do right by all people and help end the systematic racism and social inequalities. Change is the only thing that will allow us to move forward to equality and it should not matter when a case has happened. I am a white male who has seen the injustices of the system, but I was sick to my stomach when I read the Ramos v Louisiana ruling and how this has been allowed to go on for so long. Read the majority opinion from the case and you will see firsthand. I hope you never stop fighting for what's right, as I know I won't!

Sincerely,
Shawn Monro