

Submitter: Keith LaHaie

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: SB776

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Here we go again! In 2021 Senator Frederick made two attempts at furthering the reparations nonsense, neither of which did pass. Now, in 2023, he's back with a reparations "task force." This needs to stop.

One hundred sixty years! It's been nearly 160 years since anyone has owned or been a slave! Slavery is history, it should be taught as such, and anyone with common sense has learned from it and moved on. This bill is just another chapter in the perpetuation of the endless black victimhood industry. It will do nothing but deepen and broaden the divide in this country, and I think it could cause some very dangerous and perhaps violent strife if - God forbid - it passes. As evidenced by the prior attempts in this space, SB 776 is intended to do much more than "establish a task force!"

My family arrived in this country long after Emancipation – we owe black Americans nothing in regards to slavery! Not everyone believes the propaganda that black Americans continue to suffer from the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. Americans have paid trillions for failed programs designed to improve the lives of black Americans – the ill-fated “War on Poverty” comes to mind. Now, Oregon taxpayers are supposed to pony up millions more in an effort to ferret out examples of past discrimination so that people can be compensated for it? Nothing we do is ever enough! While perhaps not comparable to the scourge of slavery, many minority groups in this country can righteously claim discrimination, hardship and persecution – are we to pay them too?

The idea that one racial group is to be singled out for special treatment – such as with the payment of reparations - is the purest form of racism. How does that square with the racial obsession we currently see in this Legislature?

Please stop living in the past, and spend your time working on the future.

I fervently hope that the Committee reject this bill and makes sure that it does not see the Senate floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith LaHaie