

Submitter: Brian Pilecki

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB776

I would like to express my support for Bill 776. A history of oppression cannot be healed until it is acknowledged and addressed, and the evidence and data shows the effects of our racist history in this country are ongoing. Other “developed” nations who have a history of genocide, segregation, and/or land-grabbing have made very important steps towards acknowledging this past and treating the “wounds” that have been left as a result. Other countries such as South Africa, Canada, and Germany have provided examples of how to take responsibility for a history of mistreatment through reparations and honest attempts at reconciliation. Oregon has a history of anti-Black laws and policies, the impact of which are still causing harm today. As a White person I feel shame for this history and for the lack of action on the part of law-makers. This feeling of shame alerts me to what is important to me and to the value of repairing the mistakes of our collective past. It is not something to be avoided, but rather an important signal for me to respond to, to call on myself and others to address these past and current wrong-doings. I wholeheartedly support this bill.