

Submitter: Kara Widergren

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB776

It's pretty common knowledge that ignoring a problem doesn't make it go away. Yet that seems for too long to have been this country's response to a horrific history of incredible harms done by this state. This bill seems like a small step moving in the direction of addressing a deep issue within our state and country. For centuries, the principles of justice and equality for all have been grossly compromised by the enslavement, segregation, imprisonment, and prejudice against black Americans. Look at any statistic on the comparative financial, physical, emotional wellbeing or access to good housing, education, career, medical support, and other essential resources and it is clear to see that justice and equality for all is still not happening. It is our responsibility as a country, as a state, as community, as any citizen with a voice and power to right this wrong. Our nation is suffering because the foundations on which we declared our country and citizens to be founded is missing. No wonder we are collapsing and struggling. Let's do our work here in Oregon. Let's go back to the root. Let's live the truth of our values. Let's find ways to allow our black neighbors and community members thrive after centuries of being oppressed, silenced, and taken from. So that we can all thrive together. Please move this bill forward. To stop to the unnecessary and unjust suffering and hardships of so many and, truly, for the good of us all.