

Submitter: Catherine Cooney

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB776

Please support SB776 Relating to a task force on reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent.

I am a white Oregonian who is troubled by our state's history and institutional racism that continues to negatively impact Black Oregonians in far reaching ways. Black Oregonians are experiencing daily discrimination, wage inequalities, higher rates of unemployment, housing insecurity and are more likely to experience police violence and incarceration due to the color of their skin.

As a state, we espouse celebrating equity and diversity, but we, as a collective, have never reckoned with the past nor sought in any meaningful way to repair the harms caused. To heal from this legacy means to take responsibility for our past actions and our ongoing participation in, and benefit from, these systems of oppression. True change is not going to come from talking about change, it's going to come from repairing harm This bill seems like a small step moving in the direction of addressing a deep issue within our state and country.

Please vigorously support this bill and urge your colleagues to likewise.

Thank you,
Catherine Cooney