

Submitter: Lisa Wright

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB776

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 776 (SB776), to establish a task force on reparations for the state of Oregon. While in many ways monetary reparations can only really be properly and fairly addressed at a national level, Oregon is founded in White Supremacy, and the effects of that founding have been inflicted on African-American Oregonians ever since. It seems both just and sensible to begin by establishing a task force to develop recommendations for how reparations in Oregon might work. I appreciate that the bill notes that reparations can be both financial and non-financial, but we should be clear on one thing: the damage to African-American Oregonians in material, financial terms is real. Maya Angelou said, "Now that I know better, I do better." Reparations recognizes that we cannot just fix the problems of systemic racism by doing better going forward; we must also do our best to address the multi-generational harms that have occurred. Establishing a task force to study and recommend possible remedies is a modest step on that path.