

Submitter: Willie Poinsette
On Behalf Of: Respond to Racism in LO
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3294

There are still racial covenants in homeowner deeds in Lake Oswego and elsewhere in Oregon restricting homeownership based on race. These are illegal; they were outlawed by the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Oregon has adopted laws to help homeowners remove this discriminatory language from deeds. However, only the property owner can instigate this process, which is cumbersome and confusing. House Bill 3294 provides a clear path for homeowners to initiate the removal of discriminatory language from their deeds.

As an African American woman who has lived in Lake Oswego for thirty four years, this is a small step in rectifying the myriads of ways in which people of color have been marginalized and disrespected in our town. I strongly support this bill and urge its passage. It will be one more positive step in dismantling racist policies and making our town and our state a welcoming place for all people.