

Submitter: Syd Abad

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Syd, and I am a proud Filipino American residing in Portland, Oregon. Today I stand in solidarity with the Black community and wholeheartedly support the establishment of the Task Force on Reparations. This initiative represents a crucial step toward acknowledging historical injustices and paving the way for meaningful healing and equity for Black Oregonians.

As a Filipino American, my heritage is rooted in a history marked by colonization, resistance, and the fight for justice. I understand that the legacy of systemic oppression is not confined to one community but has deeply impacted people of color across generations. However, the experiences of the Black community in America, and specifically here in Oregon, are unique and demand a focused, intentional, and comprehensive approach to redress.

I support this Task Force for the following reasons:

1. Acknowledgment of Historical Injustices:

Oregon's history is marked by exclusionary laws and discriminatory practices that have systematically marginalized Black communities. From Black exclusion laws to redlining and segregation, the ripple effects of these policies are still felt today in wealth disparities, educational opportunities, housing access, and health outcomes. By establishing this Task Force, Oregon takes a critical step toward acknowledging these historical injustices and laying the foundation for accountability.

2. Education and Public Awareness:

I witness the gaps in our education system when it comes to teaching the full history of our state, particularly its impact on Black communities. Many Oregonians are unaware of the discriminatory practices that have shaped our neighborhoods and communities. This Task Force's commitment to educating the public about these historical and ongoing impacts is crucial for fostering understanding, empathy, and a more inclusive society.

3. Pathways to Equity and Healing:

Reparations are not just about financial compensation; they are about restoring dignity, healing communities, and addressing systemic inequities. I am encouraged that this Task Force will examine both financial and nonfinancial avenues for reparations, including educational opportunities, housing equity, healthcare access, and economic development initiatives. A holistic approach is necessary to address

the multifaceted impacts of systemic racism.

4. Solidarity and Collective Liberation:

As a Filipino American, I recognize that our struggles for justice are interconnected. By standing with the Black community, I affirm my commitment to a more equitable Oregon for all marginalized communities. I believe that collective liberation requires us to acknowledge and address anti-Blackness as a fundamental step toward justice.

I urge the Oregon Legislature to pass this measure and fully support the establishment of the Task Force on Reparations. This initiative is not just about addressing the past; it is about building a more equitable and just future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Syd A.
Portland, Oregon