

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, & Veterans:

I am writing in support of HB 2995, "Establish Task Force on Reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent." I believe providing reparations is vital for addressing the economic harms suffered by our neighbors, friends, and families of African American heritage. Reparations would be a huge step forward in acknowledging the generational wealth withheld from Oregonians of African American descent. Reparations would facilitate closing the wealth gap between African American Oregonians and their Euroamerican counterparts. The year was 1865 (six years after Oregon gained statehood), the United States government "promised" two million enslaved people, who had worked everyday of their lives for seventy years under the harshest of conditions, each person would receive "forty acres of land and a mule." History is watching. Support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Karen Wells  
Portland