



PRESS RELEASE

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Black Legislative Members Condemn Police Killing of Daunte Wright

The Oregon Legislature's Black Lawmakers urge law enforcement to stop killing Black people.

SALEM, OR – Today, Black members of the Oregon Legislature BIPOC Caucus came out with the following statements in response to the killing of Daunte Wright by a police officer during a traffic stop in Minnesota.

Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-Clackamas) said:

“As a mother, I mourn for Daunte Wright. As a Black woman, I mourn for Daunte Wright. As a human being, I mourn for Daunte Wright. I am horrified by the video released today. It is revolting that we have not learned the lessons of the brutalities and indignities of Jim Crow. Today’s America basks in her amnesia, continuing to allow the state-sanctioned murder of her Black citizens over taillights, wallets, expired tags, or air fresheners. Every single day Black people are forced to live in a system where a traffic stop could become a death sentence. Black mothers everywhere fear for what might happen to our own children at any time. We pray without ceasing.

We must change the systems that criminalize the mere existence of Black people and threaten our constitutional right to freedom of movement. The culprits of those systems are power structures, that offer false benefits to a chosen few, and implicit bias, which is often never interrupted. That these culprits continue to infest so much of our existence show that we must move expeditiously to dismantle them. We must change America so that Black boys and girls can live freely and joyfully.”

Sen. Lew Frederick (D-Portland) said:

“We moved past outrage years ago. Detailed, systemic cultural change is required for public safety for ALL. Now!”

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