



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## **Senate Democrats Support the People of Color Caucus and Ongoing Work to Advance Justice**

SALEM – On Saturday, following protests across the nation against racist policing and violence against people of color, the People of Color (POC) Caucus put out [a statement](#) calling for unity against racism. Earlier today, the POC Caucus put out [a release](#) announcing legislative proposals for the upcoming Special Session and the 2021 Legislative Session. Democratic leaders in the Oregon Senate will support and promote these proposals in order to advance equity, oppose racism and act against injustice.

Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) has spoken publicly in recent days, including addressing a crowd at a rally at Alton Baker Park in Eugene. He is a member of the People of Color Caucus.

“The roots of racism run deep in our country and in Oregon and they have caused a disease of hate, of fear and of privilege. That hate is evident in the unjustified and atrocious violence committed against Brown and Black people every day,” said Senator Manning.

“In a moment, lives have ended because of this hate. As a former law enforcement officer, I know no justification for the actions taken by the officers in Minneapolis. This must stop. We must do better. Only together can we fix this.”

Senator Lew Frederick (D-Portland) spoke alongside state leaders during Governor Kate Brown’s press conference on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He has long advocated for racial justice reform and is also a member of the People of Color Caucus.

“I have lived in Portland for decades. I still wonder whether I’m going to die when I see a police car behind me, even while sitting in my own car in my own neighborhood. I know the fear people of color face while simply going about their daily lives.” said Senator Frederick. “This fear has come from centuries of racism which is embedded within our institutions and resulted in endless examples of discrimination, including the inexcusable use of force by law enforcement. I re-state the call of the People of Color Caucus to the non-Black community – including non-Black legislators – to join us in this work. We need you. We need change.”

“I support the People of Color Caucus and I recognize that change can’t happen without all of us,” said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem). “The Legislature must come together to oppose racism and address the institutional structures that support it.”

Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) also voiced his support for the People of Color Caucus. “We are again faced with heartbreaking stories of lives lost to racist violence, including those of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Systemic and institutionalized oppression are counter to equity, opportunity and justice. We must take thoughtful and informed action against oppression and racism. The Oregon Senate Democrats are committed to support and advance the policies put forth by the People of Color Caucus.”

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