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Senators Frederick, Jama and Manning Jr. Respond to Chauvin Conviction and the Work Ahead

SALEM – Yesterday, Derek Chauvin was found guilty on three counts by a jury of his peers in the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020. Senator Lew Frederick (D-N/NE Portland), Senator Kayse Jama (D-East Portland) and Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) are the Oregon Senate members of the Oregon Legislature’s BIPOC Caucus. Together, they issued the following statement:

“The struggle for equality continues, it’s ongoing, it’s never-ending. George Floyd’s life was taken, we all watched it happen. The way his life was taken resonated to our bones, it was the fear we face day in and day out, it was the reality too many have experienced – and this time it was filmed.

“We all have a right to live. As Black Oregonians, we have a right to live.

“The Oregon Legislature has a [variety of measures](#) up for consideration this 2021 Legislative Session. These bills are priorities of the BIPOC Caucus which fall under 10 critical categories. These bills are clear actions our state can take in the interest of justice and in the interest of demonstrating that Black Oregonians not only have a right to live, but we also have a right to succeed and a right to thrive.

“In the Chauvin case, the guilty verdict was the right verdict, and we hope Mr. Floyd’s family is healing. The verdict, however, does not bring joy – too many lives have been lost and their families have been denied justice. Too many perpetrators – too many law enforcement officers – have faced zero accountability.

“We should not have to take to the streets. We should not have to debate the truth that our lives matter. We have waited for far too long. Justice should simply be an expectation.

“Our systems need real overhaul and real change, starting with a real recognition of the racism those systems uphold by design. In the meantime, we’ll continue to use our voices and we’ll fight for the change we desperately need to save lives, change which must be made *before* we lose more.

“Yesterday was the right outcome and today we cannot forget how much more there is to do – and in Oregon, we have an opportunity to make meaningful change *this* session.”

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