

## Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

### Systemic Racism Testimony

December 10, 2019, 1:45, Room 10

Mark Hughes

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. For record: Mark Hughes, Interim Coordinator for the Racial Justice Alliance.

### **About Systemic Racism**

In my last testimony I told you that our existing government structure was not designed to disentangle this apparatus from its DNA. It was designed to protect itself, selfheal and adjust. To change this requires a new thinking and a willingness to transform the fail-safes that enable the existing system to protect itself to one that autocorrects to justice for everyone, no matter what you look like; Justice in Housing and education, employment and health services access, in economic development and the justice system.”

“Systemic Racism includes a complex array of antiblack practices, the unjustly gained political-economic power of whites, the continuing economic and other resource inequalities along racial lines, and the white racist ideologies and attitudes created to maintain and rationale white privilege and power. Systemic here means that the core racist realities are manifested in each of societies’ major parts [...] each major part, of U.S. society – the economy, politics, education, religion, the family – reflects the fundamental reality of systemic racism”

Joe Feagin, *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations*

Today I simply offer I have come with a six-minute video for the Committee. As the video is prepared, in the book that I recommended to you in October are seven high level elements to systemic racism. They are:

1. The impoverishment of People of Color and Enrichment of White People
2. Vested Group Interests Among White People
3. Alienating Racist Relationships Between White People and POC
4. The Costs and Burdens Racism Are Borne by POC
5. The Racial Power of White Elites
6. The Power of Racist Ideas, Assumptions and World Views
7. Resistance to Racism

Joe Feagin, Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, & Future Reparations

I again encourage you all to read the book.

This video is a 6-minute excerpt from Tricia Rose, a Professor at Brown University.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC3TWx9IOUE> (3:30 – 9:35)

I ask the committee members to consider their respective legislative priorities and ask you why and how they intersect with systemic racism.

How do your priorities enable or how do dismantling systemic racism, decriminalizing and eradicating poverty and ensuring equity enable them? How would the use of population-level outcomes be helpful in achieving desired systemic racism statewide outcomes? What is the impact of a flat budget for the Executive Director of Racial Equity, into 2022, understanding her charge?

How do we close a 1:13 black/white the median wealth gap?

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to testify before you.