# The Modern Reparations Movement Testimony to the AB3121 California Reparations Task Force February 23, 2022



Chad Brown
NAASD National Spokesperson

## Reparations Movement Icons (1865 - 2022)



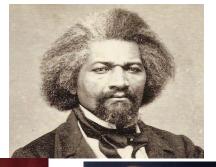










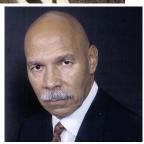


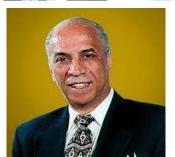














## **Happy Birthday Grandma!**

February 24, 1909 - June 13, 2012













#### **Modern Day Reparations Movement - 2 Distinct Phases**

## PHASE I "Legacy" (1987 - 2016)

- Formation of N'COBRA (1987)
- Civil Liberties Act for JA Internment (1988)
- Introduction of HR40 by John Conyers (1989)
- Principally led by N'COBRA and NAARC activists
- Pan-African focus centers "People of African descent"
- Race-based repair focus on "African-Americans"
- Prioritizes other forms of Reparations over direct cash payments to beneficiaries
- Ta-Nehisi Coates "The Case For Reparations (2014)
- Reparations a fringe issue with little national support.

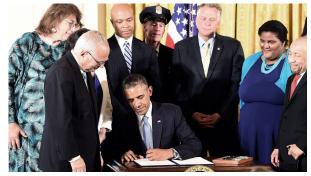
## PHASE II "Contemporary" (2016 - Present)

- Born out of failure of Obama administration to produce tangible policy for Black America and his rejection of Reparations
- Driven by political education, technology and data
- Grassroots led "bottom up"
- Formation of NAASD (2019)
- "From Here to Equality" (2020)
- Focus on American institution of chattel slavery, Jim Crow and ongoing atrocities
- Lineage-based w/ focus on BADOCS
- Prioritizes closure of lineage wealth gap w/ direct cash payments to beneficiaries
- Resurrection of Freedmen political status
- Reparations mainstreamed. National support and conversation at all-time high.

## Phase II - Political Education: Agenda Politics Matter

During the Obama years, Several groups received policy...







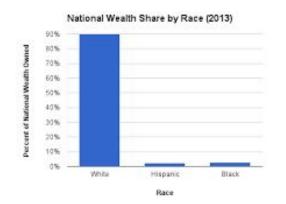
This is what Black America got.





## Phase II - Focus on Data / Lineage Wealth Gap

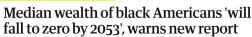




	Liquid Assets		Total Assets	
	Median Value	Percentage of white household liquid assets	Median Value	Percentage of white household liquid assets
White	110,000	100.0	355,000	100.0
U.S. Black	200	0.2	30,000	8.5**
African Black	60,000	54.5	152,000	42.8
Mexican	0	0.0	5,000	1.4**
Other Latino	7	0.0	43,000	12.3*
Chinese	130,000	118.2	408,500	115.1
Japanese	140,000	127.3	595,000	167.6
Korean	3,000	2.7	28,400	8.0**
Vietnamese	500	0.5	40,000	11.3*
Filipino	80,000	72.7	243,000	68.5
Asian Indian	245,000	222.7	460,000	129.6

Source: NASCC survey, authors' calculations

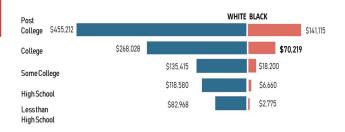
Note: The difference in the percentage of nonwhites as compared with the percentage of white households is statistically significant at the \*\*\*99%, \*\*95%, \*90% level.



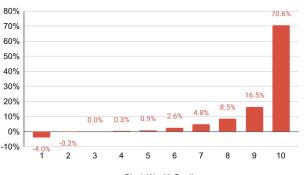
Study predicts huge and growing gulf between white US households and everyone else could be disastrous for future of America's middle class



Figure 1: Median Household Net Worth by Race and Education



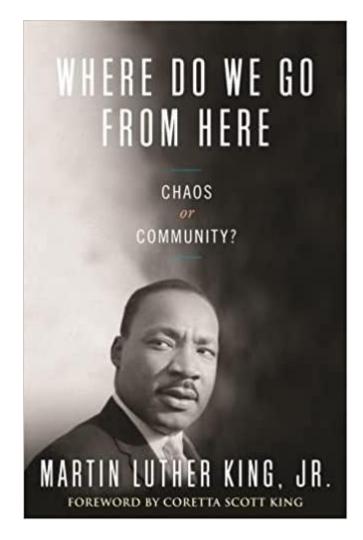
#### Percent of Black Wealth Owned by Each Black Wealth Decile (2019)



Black Wealth Decile

#### White household wealth is 20 times that of blacks and Hispanics





## **Phase II - Lineage Matters**

"Every man must ultimately confront the question, "Who am I?" and seek to answer it honestly..."

"Who are we? We are the descendants of slaves. We are the offspring of noble men and women who were kidnapped from their native land and chained in ships like beasts."

"But we are also Americans. Abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America, In spite of the psychological appeals of identification with Africa, the Negro must face the fact that America is now his home, a home that he helped build through "blood, sweat and tears."

## **Modern Reparations Phase II - "Coming to Get Our Check"**

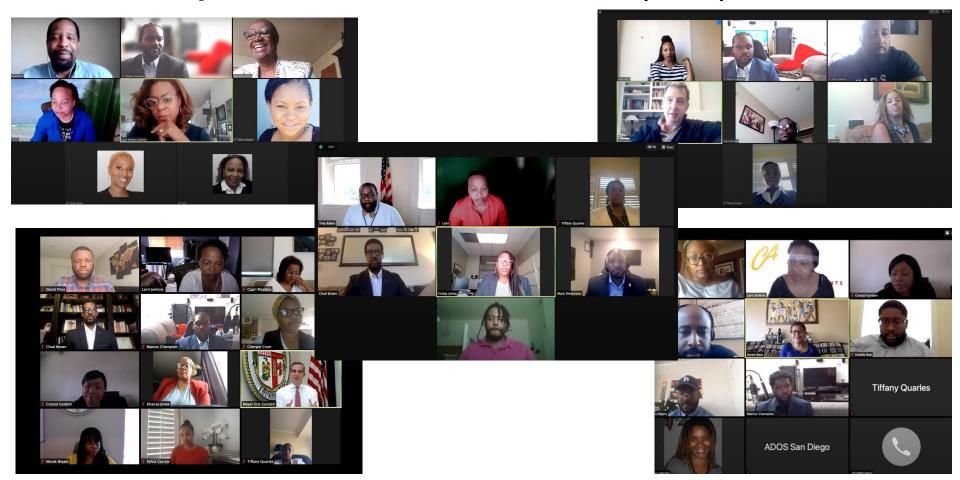












## The Grassroots Impact

U.S. Supreme Court
Protest to Protect Civil Right Act of 1866
(November 13, 2019)





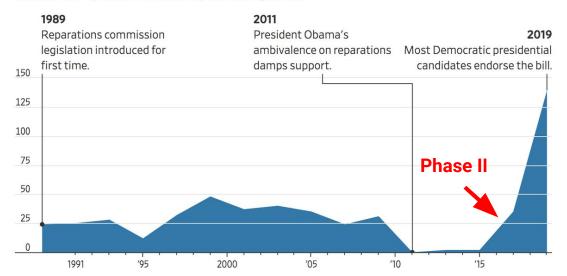


#### **Modern Day Reparations Movement - The Grassroots Impact**

#### **Slavery Reparations**

Support is rising in Congress for legislation creating a commission studying reparations to Black Americans for slavery and discrimination, raising prospects for House passage this year.

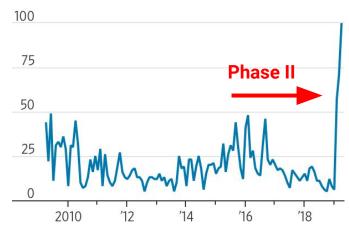
#### Number of co-sponsors for House reparations legislation



<sup>\*</sup> As of July 21 Source: Congress.gov

#### Googling 'Reparations'

The topic of reparations hit the highest interest on Google in a decade earlier this year.



Note: Numbers represent search interest relative to the highest point on the chart for the given region and time. A value of 100 is the peak popularity for the term. A value of 50 means that the term is half as popular. A score of 0 means there wasn't enough data for this term.

Source: Google Trends

## The Grassroots Impact

House Congressional Hearing on H.R. 40 Juneteenth 2019 National Day of Action





#### HR40 Advocacy & Activism - #FixHR40



#### **6 ESSENTIAL EDITS FOR H.R.40 REPARATIONS BILL**

#### **Experts Only**

Commissioners should be selected exclusively by Congress. They should be experts in American history, Constitutional law, economics (including stratification economics). political science, and sociology, and they should have expertise on the history of slavery and the Jim Crow regime, employment discrimination, wealth inequality, health disparities, unequal education opportunity, criminal justice and mass incarceration, media, political participation and exclusion, and housing inequities.

#### 4. 1776 to Present Window Claim

The relevant window for the black American claim for reparations dates from 1776 to the present (not 1619 as the bill currently reads). Since the claim for redress must be made on the U.S. government, the beginning date for the claim should be associated with the founding of the Republic, not the landing of enslaved persons at Jamestown, Virginia.

#### 2. No Pay for Commissioners or Their Organizations

There should be a paid professional staff While the Commissioners' reasonable expenses should be met, unlike the present version of the bill, neither they nor any organization to which they belong should receive a salary, honorarium, or the equivalent for performing this vital national service.

#### 5. Effective Racial Wealth Gap Redress Solution

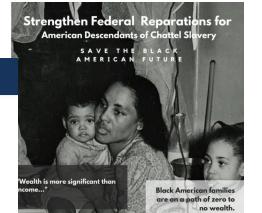
The Commission should be charged with developing a proposal for redress that will eliminate the gulf in black and white wealth in the United States While black Americans constitute 13 percent of the nation's population, they possess less that 3 percent of the nation's wealth A reparations plan should be designed to bring the black share of wealth, at least, into alignment with the black share of the population.

#### 3. Eligibility Criteria

The Commission should be directed to set as eligible recipients black American descendants of United States slavery. Eligible recipients would need to show that they have at least one ancestor who wasenslaved in the United States-a lineage standard, and, for at least twelve years prior to the enactment of a reparations plan or a study commission, whichever comes first, they self-identified as black, negro, or African American-an identity standard.

#### 6. 18 Month Deadline

The Commission should be directed to complete its report, inclusive of a detailed prescription for legislation to enact a reparations program for black Americans, within 18 months of its impaneling



#### Control Your Own Destiny With H.R.40 & S.40

HOUSE RESOLUTION 40 IS THE ONLY FEDERAL REPARATIONS LEGISLATION FOR DESCENDANTS OF AMERICAN CHATTEL SLAVERY.

SIGN THE PETITION TO CORRECT LEGISLATION SUPPORT THE

FIX H.R. 40 CAMPAIGN

SIGN UP FOR THE CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

#### REWRITE H.R.40

AMERICA HAS NEVER ATONED FOR ITS ORIGINAL SIN OF SLAVERY IN THE FORM OF #REPARATIONS.

IT IS OUR POSITION THAT H.R.40 BE

**FULLY REWRITTEN** 

TO INCLUDE BLACK AMERICAN DESCENDANTS OF US CHATTEL SLAVERY AS THE RECIPIENT GROUP FOR CASH PAYMENTS AND A BLACK AGENDA WITH SET ASIDES AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR ALL BLACK AMERICANS RESIDING IN THE US



#REPARATIONS **#NAASD** 

#FIXHR40 **EMERGENCY CALL TO ACTION** 

Tell Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee & the House Judiciary Comittee to review our edits for House Resolution 40 (HR40) during markup!

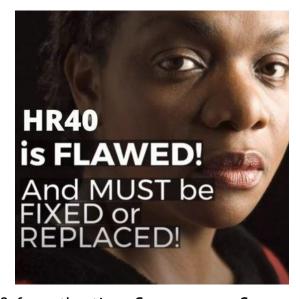
## NAASD's Position On H.R. 40 Aligns with Experts



[On HR40] "It's just about a commission, the language is imprecise, what's crucial is that the language of any bill that would actually give Reparations define it so that it's not about race." -Erwin Chemerinsky, UC Berkeley Law Dean, Constitutional Scholar



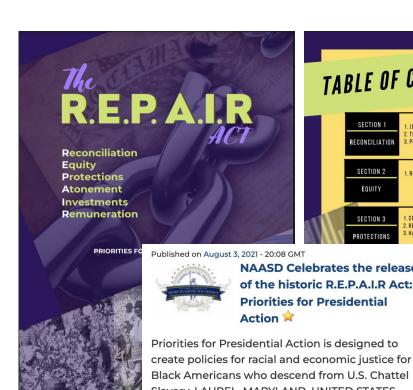
"HR40 (\$1083) in its present form is an intentional deflection from true reparations. Revise it or replace it." -Dr. William Darity, Duke Professor, Leading Black Reparations Scholar





"I fully support Black reparations. I've been a supporter of HR40 from the time Congressman Conyers introduced it in the House, but I have a concern that amendments to the current bill are very problematic: 1) the added numbers of commission members and the requirements for their eligibility would seem to ensure the outcome of the commission's findings; and 2) the compensation to commission members, at GS-18 equivalents, seems excessive to the point that the public would find it objectionable. If the purpose is to gain reparations, the effort is going to need public support, and based on my legislative experience, any negative perceptions of any aspect relative to the commission will strongly jeopardize the effort." -John Tateishi, Director Japanese American Redress Campaign

NAASD - Grassroots Policymakers at Work



Assembly of ...



116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 1865

To address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States between 1776 and the present and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JANUARY 3, 2019

Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

#### A BILL

To address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States between 1776 and the present and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "John Conyers Commission on Restitution to the Descendants of US Chattel Slavery and American Apartheid Act".

## **Grassroots Reparations Work in California**

- ☐ AB3121 Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans
- □ CJEC is an Anchor Org 2 listening sessions in 2022
- □ AB1604 Upward Mobility Act of 2022
- ☐ ACA3 California Abolition Act
- ☐ Fight to Save Black LA Candidate Forum 2020
- ☐ Federal & City of LA COVID-19 Recommendations
- ☐ City of Los Angeles Reparations Commission
- ☐ City of Sacramento Reparations Resolution
- And more...









## **National Grassroots Reparations Partner Network**

































## ~In Recognition~

Khansa Jones-Muhammad Tiffany Quarles Chris Lodgson Lorri Jenkins Marcus Champion Natalie Champion Mark Stevenson Kieran Smith Tony Blount Michael Brown Hozell Francis Natalie Hatcher Crystal Gordon Kim Mims C.O. Thomas Uumoiya Glass Margery Melvin Michael Thomas Dr. Tish Crawford Marshall Parson Ahsun Powell Dana Dorsey LaCretia Birts Nyheim Way Charles Ware Josh Gray Chuck Harrison Angela Nirvana Najee Jahaan Jerrod Amir Shakir Josiah Williams Tyrone Polk-Davis Greg Marcel Dixon Chuck Harrison William Summerville Ty Harper Kellie Pryor Derrick Williams Dr. Kayla Harris Rozlyn Mickens Marlon Watson Arthur Ward Cynthia McDonald Bret Griffin Ibrahim Tanner Avery Valentine Dawn Paige Kimberly Davis Phyliss Coachman Darlene Crumedy Shanna Kim Michael Hicks Otis Griffith Annette Wilcox Antonia Edwards

#### and many more...

## **THANK YOU!**

