



NAACP

Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference

March 1, 2021

Dear Senators,

We're writing you this letter to share our deep concern for SSB5010 that is currently being considered.

In its original form, SB5010 called for banning the use of credit scores in determining rates for personal lines of insurance, because it's deeply rooted in institutional racism, economic disparities and modern-day redlining. Due to these Jim Crow era practices, both poor communities and communities of color have suffered some of the greatest economic disparities, (which often leads to poor credit), and further exacerbates inequities by using oppressive economic tools to target our community..

As the nation's oldest Civil Rights organization, the NAACP have stood on the front line protecting and defending civil rights of our community, particularly against policies and practices that targets us for disparities. Allowing the use of credit scores by insurance carriers is only a proxy for the old redlining practices that's known to discriminate against poor people and people of color. Today, we are not far removed from the days of using zip codes to gain the same outcome. We also struggle to find a reasonable link between credit scores and driving records to price rates; unless the purpose is to penalize poverty since poor people often have higher premiums.

However, substitute SSB5010 ignores these historical factors and ultimately reduce our reality down to a mere temporary pandemic relief response. Unfortunately, all communities were impacted by Covid-19, but we cannot allow the pandemic to be a "shield" to prevent us from addressing the racial inequities proven to exist in our communities. This substitute also allows for the continuation of this racist practice, but our community should not have to tolerate more of this inequity, especially when we know where it exists, and you as legislators can put an end to it today.

Therefore, we're calling on you to vote NO on substitute SSB5010 and revert back to the original bill to ban the use of credit scores by insurance carriers. It should not cost more to be black or poor simply because the "risk" seems more expensive.

Sincerely,

Gerald Hankerson, President
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