



Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Pham and Drazan, and members of the committee,

My name is Seth Johnstone, and I'm here representing Basic Rights Oregon. Basic Rights Oregon is here supporting the House Resolution 3.

Drag as an artform is built on self-expression and artistic creativity. It can be a profession, a symbol of community pride doing charitable work, and a place of connection for an often isolated community. Drag art as a place of joy has been used as a form of in response to instances of discrimination, homophobia, and the targeting of the LGBTQ+ community through policing, community harassment, and brutality. Black drag artists have led through charitable work, bringing communities together to raise funds supporting our houseless communities, healthcare and HIV/AIDS organizations, youth serving organizations and so much more.

This resolution is for our community here in Oregon specifically our trans black drag entertainers are having rights attacked every day.

The success of the many fearless artists and activists brings us to this space today. In Oregon, we are proud to have many historic venues and producers that curate, showcase and promote drag culture and joy.

We support the HR3 resolution during Black History Month and the path paved by Black drag artists in our state.