

Submitter: Sandra Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HR3

Black drag performers have played a crucial role in shaping Oregon's LGBTQ+ and artistic communities, using their craft to challenge societal norms, advocate for equality, and create inclusive spaces. Despite historical and current barriers, Black drag artists have been pioneers in Portland's vibrant drag scene, blending activism with entertainment to amplify Black voices. Figures like Poison Waters have been instrumental in fostering representation and mentoring future generations. Their contributions have not only enriched Oregon's cultural landscape but have also strengthened the fight for racial and LGBTQ+ justice, proving that drag is both a form of resistance and a celebration of identity.

Acknowledging history is crucial, even when we disagree with it, because history shapes our present and future. Ignoring or denying history—especially the parts we find uncomfortable—only leads to misunderstanding, misinformation, and repeated mistakes. Understanding different perspectives is important and helps us question narratives, analyze sources and develop informed opinions rather than blindly accepting information that often is based on fear and a lack of knowledge.

I proudly state that I am an Oregonian who would appreciate honoring the black drag history in Oregon.