

Goodmorning, my name is Corey Williams, I am a 47 year old man who has lived in Columbus, Ohio for 35 years. However, today I am speaking to you from my official capacity as Anisa Love, Miss Gay Ohio 2026. I have been a drag entertainer within the state of Ohio for 26 years, and I have watched our amazing state grow with love, and acceptance for all up until the past few years. I am no stranger to adversity, but I've based my career within this artform to uplift, inspire, and educate. So, today let me attempt to do those things. The majority of the opponents to H.B. 249 within this room have had their hands in helping to raise millions of dollars for 503.1c charity organizations throughout the state of Ohio. I personally work with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center to give everyone of our LGBTQIA+ youth and their families resources to become

their best selves through counseling, leadership opportunities, and after-school programming. KYC was founded in 1994 and I am proud to say that I was one of the youth that walked through their doors over 30 years ago.

What you see standing before you is years of dedication, hardwork, determination, 5 pairs of compression tights, a roll of duct tape, a corset, 5 inch high density foam for my hips, high density foam false breasts, layers of makeup, hairspray, false eye lashes and and the love of this historic art. In April of 2022, an alt right, Nazi organization showed up to a drag Brunch that I was the host of at Landgrant Brewing. They were armed with weapons, hate, and masks to hide their identity all in the attempt to frighten and intimidate us. We were not scared, but we answered the call as we have for generations, with love

and the commitment to protect our rights to free speech, and to gather. That brunch is a fundraiser for the LGBTQIA+ Youth of our state with the purpose of raising \$5,000. Because we stood firm and showed that we would not be swayed, we ended up raising over \$65,000 in that particular brunch. Love will always win over hate.

I have the distinct privilege as Miss Gay Ohio to travel across the state to spread our mission statement which is "To Provide Resources, Opportunities, and Funding to the community at large without prejudice."

If you have any questions about why we create art the way we do, who we are as humans and how we can help you, please don't hesitate to ask. Most of us in this room are willing to sit and have an open conversation with you. You will find that

we are not very different. We are brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, siblings that wake up every morning trying to be the best version of ourselves each day, while trying to carve out time for joy, and spaces to come together as not just a community, but one human race.

Fear is not a way to make a judgement. Hebrews 11:1 state Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. I have faith in each of you to look inward to the better parts of your angels and know this decision is not a light one. Our economy, our livelihoods, and our lives are on the line with your decision. Thank you very much for your time.