



# **Ebony Pyramid Entertainment**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 26, 2016

### **EPE EVALUATING PAGEANT EVENT IN NORTH CAROLINA AFTER ANTI-LGBT LEGISLATION**

**Washington, DC** – Ebony Pyramid Entertainment (EPE) is closely monitoring activities in North Carolina, after a Republican led House and Senate passed anti-LGBT and discrimination legislation. This law is troubling to EPE because of its upcoming Legendary International Pageant in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 12 – 13, 2016. The law comes months after Charlotte passed measures protecting lesbian, gay, and transgender individuals from being discriminated against by businesses.

The new law, signed by Republican Governor, Pat McCrory, alters a 30 year state law that had allowed private sector employees to sue their employers under state law discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. In the cloak of darkness, the North Carolina legislature and governor made it state law to be fired from your job for being gay, turned away at hotel chains for being gay, and even forced to show genitals to a police officer if the officer thinks someone might be transgender. EPE President/CEO, DaJuan Patrick Xavier said, "This is a sad and unfortunate act. As a Gay-American I am appalled that instead of protecting its citizens some governments are actually making them targets for discrimination or worse. It is also a concern that these so-called North Carolina leaders are discriminating against the very individuals that fought for their rights, such as me and my fellow military veterans. So, be careful my friends, if this doesn't apply to you now, one of the groups you fall under may be next!"

Should we continue to conduct business in North Carolina? This is the question at hand. During the planning of the Legendary International Pageant, EPE was treated with the utmost respect and professionalism by Visit Charlotte - Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA), hotels, event venue, charities, and vendors. Because of this, we are willing to continue with our plans to host the event in Charlotte. However, further negative actions or attitudes of North Carolina leaders could change our position. Until then, EPE plans to work closely with its Charlotte partners.

It is important to note that North Carolina is not an isolated state when it comes to attempts to turn back LGBTQ, minorities, veterans, and gender rights. EPE plans to reach out to the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), North Carolina LGBTQ rights organizations, and other allies in an effort to combat these hatred and venomous positions. "For those of you who support these discriminatory practices think about this. The ones you are targeting may also be the ones that you call family or friend," said Xavier.

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