



Today the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in [*Masterpiece Cakeshop vs. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*](#).

Most importantly, the court reaffirmed the importance of nondiscrimination laws and the need to protect LGBT people from discrimination. While the court's decision affirms the basic principal that businesses should be open to all, they also found that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had not acted impartially when originally considering the case.

Today's ruling only applies to Masterpiece Cakeshop and does not broadly allow similar businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ people. I am heartened that the court absolutely affirmed that states can protect our community from discrimination in the marketplace.

The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach proudly joins with fair-minded business owners, civil rights advocates, faith leaders, and organizations across the country in calling on Congress to pass the Equality Act to create one set of rules for everyone, for our nation's laws to catch up with our nation's values, and to protect all Americans from discrimination. [I urge you to contact your Senators and Congressperson today to tell them you support the Equality Act too.](#)

Unfortunately, irrespective of today's decision, we know that LGBTQ people continue to experience rates of alarming discrimination and harassment here at home and across the country. We have so much more work to do and we know that we can't do it alone.

[Our work to support victims of hate crimes and violence, support for LGBTQ immigrants, for youth and seniors, and for transgender people is more important now than ever. Please consider making a donation to The Center today so that we can continue providing lifesaving support and affirmation to LGBTQ people in Long Beach and beyond who are counting on us. Your support will ensure that everyone walking through our doors is afforded the opportunity to thrive.](#)

Your Center continues to stand strong in the face of injustice. We're not going anywhere, but we are counting on you to sustain our work. Join us in the movement to create a more equitable, inclusive, and supportive community for LGBTQ people here everywhere.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Porter Gilberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director

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