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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Representative Will Carpenter
Capitol Building
Topeka, KS

Dear Committee,

My name is Ashley Corrales Valles and I am a student of Wyandotte High School. I am writing to let you know that I support HB 2044, also known as The Crown Act. I agree that employment and housing should not be denied because of a certain type of hair or hairstyle. Discriminating against people for their “look” is wrong and employers should have the ability to look beyond a citizen's hairstyle and focus on their work ethic instead of what color their hair is or what hairstyle that it is in. The way I decide to look and have my hair in my personal life should not dictate whether I can do my job efficiently or not.

Discrimination of hairstyles should not be allowed, and could be used against people of color. For example, I work in a retail store and I witnessed a black girl get fired for showing up with pink hair. She had already been working there for about a month or so and her work ethic was amazing. The company let her go because of her “pink hair.” Months later I noticed that the company rehired an old manager; she was a white woman and she had noticeable purple under dye. She had it in the interview, she has it **to** this day and she is **still** employed by the company. I personally almost got fired for my red hair but managers had to look through the Code of Conduct and the conduct stated that natural hair colors like Black, Blonde, Brown and Red were only allowed. I was then told that if I dyed my hair brighter, I would've gotten dismissed. A hairstyle cannot and should not show how skilled or unfit you are for a job. Hairstyles have **nothing** to do with your diligence.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote for passage to the Crown Act.

Sincerely,

Ashley Corrales Valles