

Kansas State Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Support for the CROWN ACT

TO: Mr. Chairman, Senator Thompson

FROM: Suldano S Sayid

DATE: January 10, 2024

Dear Chairman, Thompson and Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

Before I begin, I would like to take the time to appreciate this opportunity as I get to speak on my support of the CROWN Act. The CROWN Act which stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair is a bill that broadens accessibility for Black people, people of color, and the Kansas community as a whole.

As a young Black teen girl that goes to a predominately African American high school, I have seen how prevalent hair discrimination is. I have noticed through my peers and the people around me how unfair you can be treated because of your hair. Navigating high school comes with its own set of challenges and unrealistic expectations for your hair. I would hope that moving to exercise this bill would allow for more students to feel comfortable learning and being present at school without having to face discrimination based on hair.

In Kansas an 8 year old Native American boy was forced to cut his hair to abide by his school's hair policy. Later it was classified as "discrimination" by the American Civil Liberties Union. Another case of hair discrimination was against a young Black male in Texas where he was suspended over having locs. As the school fights against his hair, his family protects his right to express himself through his hair and finds it as unjust treatment. These are only two instances where this has occurred however there are so many more to acknowledge.

As a community we need to advocate for each others' rights to wear our natural hair in schools, workplaces, and other public establishments. Implementing this act can create a more inclusive environment to further educational, professional, and economical opportunities for Black people and people of color. Thank you for your time.

Suldano S. Sayid

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