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Written Testimony - Proponent
House Bill 2044
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
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Chairman Carpenter, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2044.

Kansas NEA supports equal rights and equity of opportunity to all persons regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity.

House Bill 2044 creates necessary additional protections against discrimination for persons of color by incorporating hair texture and protective hairstyles into the definition of race in the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

From an educational standpoint, this bill helps prevent students who choose to wear hairstyles such as afros, braids, and twists to school from being discriminated against.

As the scourge of racism continues to challenge educational achievement and quality of life for persons of color, this bill takes a positive step in ensuring more inclusive work and learning environments for our teachers and their students.

Kansas NEA is thankful the committee is discussing this very important issue, and we encourage members to pass House Bill 2044.