

December 31, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 36, The CROWN Act

Dear Sen. Thompson,

My name is Aonya Kendrick Barnett and I live in South Central Kansas residing in the 29th Senate district. I am writing to support SB 36, the Crown Act. Hair discrimination against Black culture is a real issue that needs to be addressed. The Crown Act, SB 36, is essential to ending this discrimination. Black individuals commonly wear many hairstyles, such as braids, twists, locs, or afros, are often viewed as unprofessional or unacceptable in specific settings. It's time to put an end to this unfair treatment. The Crown Act will help to ensure that everyone, regardless of their hairstyle, is treated with dignity and respect. The CROWN Act legislation to end hair discrimination ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hairstyle, are protected from discrimination in the workplace and K-12 public and charter schools.

The Crown Act is a crucial step towards ending this form of discrimination and ensuring that everyone is free to wear their hair in a way that reflects their cultural identity and personal expression. Prohibiting discrimination based on hairstyle would ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of appearance.

Take action to pass the CROWN Act in the Kansas State Legislature. I urge you to support SB 36, The Crown Act, and help create a more just and inclusive society for all.

Regards,

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