

# Kansas People of Color Action Coalition

## Proponent Testimony for SB 36

On behalf of the Kansas People of Color Action Coalition, a coalition consisting of individuals across the state of Kansas that support legislative action enhancing the betterment of communities of color, we submit this written testimony in support of the passage of SB 36, The Crown Act.

According to [thecrownact.com](http://thecrownact.com), the CROWN act stands for “Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair”. It was designed to ensure individuals were protected against discrimination in employment and educational environments because of hair texture and styles.

It is unfortunate that such a law is deemed necessary; however, discrimination has been experienced by those wearing such natural hairstyles. Thus, as reported on [thecrownact.com](http://thecrownact.com), 23 states have accepted and passed the Crown Act as law, while there appears to be 21 states that have legislation that has been filed (which includes Kansas) and six states that have not had legislation filed. The bill also passed in the U.S. House of Representatives under H.R. 2116 in a bipartisan vote. We, the Kansas People of Color Action Coalition, are certainly encouraging our legislators to follow suit in the effort of passing this bill with bipartisan participation.

Why is passing SB 36 important? Because passing SB 36 will make it unlawful for any individual to be excluded from opportunities that would otherwise be afforded to those enjoyed by others, simply because of their hair style or texture. Thus, those responsible for the unlawful practice may be held to account accordingly.

Quite candidly, there are enough challenges in the world for everyone to simply survive without imposing and allowing such discriminatory practices as a person’s hair style or texture. Let’s show our Nation that Kansas is truly a free state in action and not simply in words.

*Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn*

President and Founder

January 8, 2024