

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephanie Clayton
Representative, 19th District

State Capitol 451-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7548
stephanie.clayton@house.ks.gov

District Address
9825 Woodson Dr.
Overland Park, Kansas 66207
(913) 205-4970



HOUSE MINORITY WHIP

January 10, 2024

Testimony in Support of SB 36

Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton
Proponent Testimony for SB 36
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chairman Thompson, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Member Faust-Goudeau, and all members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

I write in support of Senate Bill 36. This is legislation that prevents discrimination based on natural hairstyle and textures. Legislation like this has become known as the Crown Act or Natural Hair Bill in legislatures across the nation. Legislation similar to this has had hearings the past several years in various House and Senate Committees, yet year after year no real action is taken to prevent this type of discrimination.

I believe it is unfair for people who want to work or participate in school events to be discriminated against due to the texture or style of their hair. In the past couple of years, we have seen students who faced bans from school events or were forced to submit to hair cuts to "meet standards." There have been numerous cases of workplace discrimination in Kansas and across the nation. This type of discrimination is simply unfair.

The health risks, time, and money to comply with a Westernized ideal of hair texture and style is something that should have disappeared from our culture decades ago. The very least we can do is follow the municipalities here in Kansas that have adopted protections from such discrimination, and finally adopt the language of SB 36.

Thank you for your time and I urge your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Sawyer Clayton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton
House District 19