



KANSAS JUSTICE ADVOCATE

Why I support the Crown Act

My name is Mary Dean. I have been a long-time activist in the city of Wichita and across the state of Kansas.

It is important to know that the act has become law in fourteen states, including Maryland, and has been filed in sixteen other states.

These are the reason why I support the Crown Act and I hope that Kansas will join the other 16 states in passing it for over a 178,000 Kansans: (1) The CROWN Act impacts racial discrimination, pay equity, and just cause protections for people of various cultural backgrounds, but especially Black people (2) Discrimination due to Black hairstyles must end. (3) The CROWN Act will help reduce discrimination for more than 12% of labor force participants.

It is important to care about the CROWN Act because it is a civil rights issue and a human rights issue. It affects human lives and allows people to wear their hair however they choose. Being able to wear our hair in the workplace does not affect the output of our work, but it allows us to become fully represented in the workplace. If we are not allowed to do that, it affects our economic potential to take care of our families and to make a living. It is important for little girls to be able to go to school with their freshly braided hair, if that is how they choose to wear their hair, and to be proud and feel beautiful. Discrimination based on hair texture and hairstyles is a major issue for a huge group of people in this country, and the CROWN Act allows us to have the freedom to wear our hair how it comes out of our heads.

Also, Black people who wear the hairstyle called “Locs” should be protected from discrimination as well in schools, students playing sports, and in the workplaces.

In summary, the CROWN Act is a significant step towards ending hair discrimination and promoting equality. It is important for everyone to care about this issue because it affects human lives and is a civil right issue.

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The Scales of Justice should be Equal for Everyone

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