

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs  
For HB 567

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:55 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Jaiden Johnson

Self

Round rock, TX

I am writing in support of The Crown Act. I wear an Afro as this is what makes me feel most like myself. I do not want to be treated differently because of the way I wear my hair or when I get it braided and it goes down to my shoulders. I am in 8th grade and my hair is a part of me. It's a part of my culture. I love my fro.

Stuart Litwin

Self

ROUND ROCK, TX

In Texas, House Bill 567 has become increasingly necessary as more and more stories of discrimination against students in schools for wearing their natural hair have been reported in the news. In 2020, DeAndre Arnold, a Black student was suspended from school by the Barbers Hill Independent School District because of his dreadlocks. In 2021, 11 year old Troy ISD student Maddox Cozart was given a two week in school suspension for wearing his hair naturally.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

As an elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Tammy Petty Conrad

self, Educator

Round Rock, TX

I support HB 567, which would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is my hope that you will publicly support HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Melissa Waelchli

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In August of this year, Massachusetts became the 18th state to pass and make the CROWN Act law. Massachusetts joins California (2019), New York (2019), New Jersey (2019), Virginia (2020), Colorado (2020), Washington (2020), Maryland (2020), Connecticut (2021), Delaware (2021), New Mexico (2021), Nebraska (2021), Nevada (2021), Oregon (2021), Illinois (2021), Maine (2022), Tennessee (2022), Louisiana (2022), as states that have passed CROWN Act legislation protecting Black and Brown people from hair discrimination in school and the workplace.

In Texas, House Bill 567 has become increasingly necessary as more and more stories of discrimination against students in schools for wearing their natural hair have been reported in the news. In 2020, DeAndre Arnold, a Black student was suspended from school by the Barbers Hill Independent School District because of his dreadlocks. In 2021, 11 year old Troy ISD student Maddox Cozart was given a two week in school suspension for wearing his hair naturally.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work.

As elected officials I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Jennie Birkholz  
Self  
Round Rock, TX

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

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As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Tywanda Flowers  
Self  
Houston, TX  
Support the crown act

Kimberly Strait  
self  
Houston, TX  
Greetings,

I am writing to ask you to support the the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567. As your constituent, I need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. HB567 legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and in K-12 public and charter schools. HB567 allows people to wear their natural style and ensures protection against discrimination on the basis of hair texture/style by extending statutory protection to hair texture and styles.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

I am a registered voter. SEN 17 REP 133

Shanika Turner  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc  
Dallas, TX

The texture of an African American and protective styles are important to us, it is apart of our culture. We wear braids, locks, and twist to keep our natural hair growing and healthy.

Jacqueline Handy  
Self - retired  
Spring, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567. As a constituent , we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing and K-12 public and charter schools.

The CROWN Act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

I am a registered and informed voter of District 150.

Loretta Bookman  
Self  
Grand Prairie, TX, TX

These explicit and implicit biases against black hair is a travesty. African Americans should not have to change their hair to “fit in”. This is how our hair grows out of our head and we should not be penalized because it makes a certain sector of society uncomfortable. My black hair is appropriate and professional in it’s natural state. Pass the CROWN Act Texas.

Forrest Smith  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SSORORITY AND MYSELF  
Pearland, TX

The Crown Act is wrong on so many levels that it brings tears to my eyes. Discriminating against me or anyone based on their natural hair texture is utterly ludicrous. Please make Texas one of the many states voting down this immoral and highly disrespectful legislation. Thank you.

LaQuintta Simon  
North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.  
Forney, TX

Requesting your support for the Crown Act to prevent discrimination with a persons hairstyle regardless of their race or ethnic background.

Debra Johnson  
Self  
Houston, TX

I support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567. I will support those representatives that help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. It is important all individuals are able to style and wear their hair in it's natural texture and styles and should not be subjected to discrimination in the workplace, housing and K-12 public and charter schools. In addition, the CROWN act will ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based styles by extending statutory protection to hair textures and styles.

The CROWN Act received unanimous support in the State Affairs in the 87th session. I am requesting that you help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due their hairstyle choice.

Cynthia Rhodes Rayford, Social Action, Chair  
Bexar Area Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567, The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. This Act allows people wear their natural hair to work, school and home. It ensures protection against discrimination based on hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Cynthia Rhodes Rayford  
Bexar Area Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas CROWN Act. Texas HB 567. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session, as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to their hairstyle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Rhodes Rayford, Social Action, Chair  
Bexar Area Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

HB567, The CROWN Act

- Allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school and home.
- Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and styles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Monica Jordan, Ms.  
Self - Classroom Teacher  
Wilmer, TX

Hello, Representative/Senator Crockett.

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB567. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair.

The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. HB567. The Crown Act:

- Allows people wear their natural hair at work, school, and home.
- Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles.

The Crown Act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue. I am a registered and informed voter of District 30.

Linda Callaway, Dr. Linda Callaway  
Delta Sigma Theta  
HOUSTON, TX

I firmly believe that I should be able present anywhere with the Hair texture of my Birth and Hairstyle of my Choice.

Linda Callaway  
Self  
HOUSTON, TX

I believe that I should be able to present with the Hair Texture of my Birth and Hairstyle of my Choice.

Eddricka Jefferson  
North Harris County Alumnae Chapter/ Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.  
Houston, TX

Please favorably pass the CROWN ACT out of committee. Thank you.  
#TexasDeltasEmpowered and #StopHairDiscrimination

Ruth Williams  
Self  
Houston, TX

I believe that discrimination unfairly excludes people of diverse backgrounds and ethnicity.  
Hair texture in my opinion is a cloaked reason to unlawfully exclude people who are of certain ethnic group without being transparent.  
In my early career in corporate America I assimilated and wore the expected hair styles. But today I embrace my naturally textured hair. My textured hair represents my heritage. My heritage makes me the successful person that I am. My textured hair represents my authentic self being my whole self to every endeavor.  
I fully support HB 567 and trust that you will do the same.

Veronica Crutches  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
New Braunfels, TX

I am requesting support of the subject bill. Hiring practices should never be discriminated on any individual based on their hair style. We are America, and each individual or race should be able to wear his or her hairstyle as desired. I humbly ask for your support of the Crown bill, as it represents freedom of speech and hair style for all Americans and Texans. I truly believe Texas can be the state where individuals can be themselves and live with and respect our differences.

Belinda Williams  
Self  
Pflugerville, TX

Greetings, I urge the Texas Legislature to favorably pass the CROWN ACT.

Daniel Keeling  
Self  
Dallas, TX

I comment in favor of the Crown Act proposed by Representative Bowers. It has been too long there has been a double standard on what is an acceptable African American hairstyle compared to others. The freedom to wear braids, Afros and natural unrelaxed hair must be allowed in the future. Many other states have already instituted this law and Texas should be the next.

Thank you  
Daniel Keeling

Wanda Gilmore, Mrs  
Self  
Corinth, TX

I am not my hair.

Sharell Warren  
Self  
Grapevine, TX

As a black woman and leader, I have experienced far too often microaggressions and received questions about my hair texture or hairstyle, primarily in the workplace. I lead the Black Professional Network at American Airlines and I am proud to say that our company recognizes the importance and need for inclusivity. In 2021, American Airlines updated its EEO policy to include natural hairstyles associated with race to ensure that all team members' current and future are included. But outside of the workplace, that is not the case. Children are being sent home because of the "volume" or style of their hair, young athletes are being told they can't compete and because of who they are. I ask that this bill be highly considered and passed to ensure that every individual can show up in their most authentic and natural state and not face discrimination.

TONI CRAWFORD, MS.  
SELF  
RED OAK, TX

I am writing in support of HB567. I believe this House Bill would allow all Texans to feel a sense of value and equality in the work place. As a thirty year educator, I have spent my entire career working to make sure students were academically and socially prepared for the workforce. I believe part of that social preparation is being proud of who you are. This includes not only your educational background, but your culture as well. I recall working a part-time job for a financial advisor while working full-time as a teacher and being told I should wear a hairstyle more reflective of the office. The statement made me question the mindset of the person delivering it. "How did my cornrows play into me being able to complete the tasks given to me?" It was as if the two degrees I earned to become a master educator were irrelevant to being hired, that the basis of my competency was dependent on my hairstyle. We all know that to be untrue. Everyone should be able to work or attend school in an environment free of biases based on one's cultural/ethnic hairstyles. I urge each of you to vote for HB567 so all students will know your worth is not dependent on your hair.

Sarah Berel-Harrop  
Self / Seminarian, Intern Minister & Director of Religious Education  
Farmers Branch, TX

Great bill. I support the Crown Act. We saw discrimination based on hair in the Barbers Hill ISD - where students have been suspended for their hairstyles. I'll say again, suspended for hair, not for sassing, not for violence, but for hair. This is completely unacceptable.

Too frequently hair discrimination occurs against Black folks, specifically against particular hairstyles. People should not have to put harmful chemicals on their head in order to go to school or keep a job. No one should face discrimination due to the way their hair grows. This bill is hugely important!!

I end with India Arie's beautiful song "I am not my hair" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_5jIt0f5Z4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_5jIt0f5Z4) which expresses some of the real-life problems stemming from this sort of discrimination.

Amy Brown  
self  
Pflugerville, TX

I am writing in support of the CROWN Act that protects against discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyles. Hair discrimination is rooted in anti-Blackness. As such, Black women in the workplace are perceived as less professional while Black students are prohibited from participating in sports or found in violation of dress codes. Differential treatment on the basis of the differences in hair texture or style teaches our Black citizens that their natural state of being is wrong. Racial discrimination against Black natural hair harms the African heritage community and hinders the overall potential and productivity of the Texas economy. Passing the CROWN Act is an important step toward eradicating racial prejudice and stigma regarding Black natural hair in Texas. Twenty U.S. states have passed provisions related to the CROWN Act and, therefore, protect against race-based hair discrimination. Now is the time to pass the bill and make it law.

Arnetta Murray

Myself

Rosharon, TX

I am in favor of this bill because we as a state need to learn to accept others who may look different from others. As a African American woman, I and others tend to get discriminated against due to the texture or style of our hair. That should not be. If I decide to wear my hair with braids, wig, bun, or protective style then I shouldn't be made to feel like I and other woman look unprofessional. We have to face the fact that African American hair comes in many styles and texture and it's ok. Texans have to be for All.

LaTonya Hamilton

Self

Frisco, TX

I am a 48 y/o WOC. I've been in the IT industry since I was 14. This industry is run primarily by white men and women. In my experiences I've had to wear wigs with dark colors and fine hair to even be considered for a position. I've had white people try to touch my hair without asking and been subjected to alarming statements. Statements like "I didn't know black people could grow hair this long." Or "I just want to see how it feels it looks so strange." Of course these comments have been made about my natural hair. I've also been told "Maybe if you straightened your hair you would look more the part of leadership". Or "Your hair just looks so tacky. That's not the presentation we want." This is abuse and bias used to justify denying positions or jobs in which I am more than qualified. I already have to code switch by speaking softly, always smiling, and never being in disagreement because doing so makes me the "angry black woman". I should be valued for my work ethic and performance; not how I look or am stereotyped. We talk about DEI yet here we are in 2023 being forced to create a law requiring that I must be accepted as I am. A law that prohibits others from discriminating against me because my look makes them feel a certain way. We are still asking to be allowed to simply exist. To say I am hurt or sad is an understatement. I am more than disappointed that we, people of color, are still trying to convince the world that we are human. Do I want this bill? No. Must we have this bill? YES! Until we can all live in a world were those in authority accept that every individual is unique and that their uniqueness doesn't mean inferiority we will continue to fight for basic human rights. We should all be ashamed that we are having this discussion. We should be even more ashamed that those discussions require laws versus voluntary change. PLEASE, pass this bill so I can be judged on my multiple degrees, multiple certifications, and 20+ years of expertise. PLEASE help me get one step closer to being seen as a human being. Thank you.

Kathryn Kizer

Access Education RRISD

Austin, TX

Please support The Crown Act. No one should face discrimination based on their hair.

Elonia Taylor

Self

Dallas, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB567 by Bowers. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help ensure the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with rache, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools.

H567, The Crown Act:

Allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school, and home.

Ensures protection against discrimination based on rase-based-hairstyles by entending statutory production to hair text and hairstyle.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

I am a registered and informed voter of District 16.



Eric Mata  
Texas Organizing Project  
Dallas, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 567, also known as The Crown Act. As a constituent of Texas, I believe that our state must take a stand against discrimination based on hairstyles historically associated with race and ethnicity.

The Crown Act will protect individuals from workplace and public school discrimination based on their natural hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. These hairstyles are deeply rooted in cultural traditions and essential to many people's identities. No one should be made to feel ashamed or embarrassed for wearing their hair in a way that reflects their culture or personal style.

Furthermore, discrimination based on hairstyles can have real and lasting consequences, and it can limit job opportunities, cause emotional distress, and perpetuate systemic inequality. The Crown Act is essential to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

I urge you to support HB 567 and to ensure that all Texans can express themselves freely without fear of discrimination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sora Patterson  
Srlf  
Mansfield, TX

This is ridiculous !

velma Banks  
Self Employed  
Marshall, TX

It is a firm belief that there should be no basis for disrimanition based on hair texture or hairstyles The life atyle and cultural considerations and individual decisions should govern this matter.

Celeste Williams  
Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc  
Georgetown, TX

I stand in support of HB 567. As a person who has natural hair it is important that myself or others are not discrimated against due to the state of our hair.

Julie Vazquez  
House of Justice  
Dallas, TX

Please be considerate to passing this bill

Cindy Fountain, Ms  
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Ministry  
Cleburne, TX

I support Rep. Bowers' bill. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. It is important and part of a person's dignity to be able to express themself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. Passing HB 567 is important in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle. I urge the committee to support this bill. Thank you!

Tela Todd

Young Women's Advisory Council - Texas Women's Foundation; AdvocacyU - Houston Area Urban League Center for Social Justice

Houston, TX

Firstly, there should be no need for a Bill to wear hair the way people choose to. Since when did hair become political? It is not political for other ethnic groups. Nevertheless, if this is what it takes to secure protection, so be it. We are going to keep advocating for equality. We are going to continue dismantling every system that tries to attack us. We are not done yet.

La'Kisha Crenshaw, Mrs.

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Dear Honorable Official:

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas CROWN Act, Texas HB 567. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. HB567, The CROWN Act: • Allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school, and home. • Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles. The Texas CROWN Act received unanimous support in State Affairs during the 87th Texas Legislative Session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle. Can I count on you to support the Texas CROWN Act during this 88th Legislative Session?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

La'kisha Crenshaw

Deborah Spell, Ms.

Self

Arlington, TX

It is imperative that Texas passes HB567. Hairstyles and hair colors represent an individual's heritage and personality. Any attempt to require an individual to conform to an unnatural hairstyle should be illegal. Individuals of African heritage should not be discriminated against and forced to straighten their hair to conform to European hairstyles. African Americans have a rich history depicting various hairstyles in its natural state. Cornrows, braids, dreadlocks, locs, and Afros are styles in the natural hair texture. Caucasians are not regulated to certain hairstyles or colors. Discrimination and suppression of African American hairstyles is control. Preventing a student from attending class, participating in sports, attending proms and graduating is ridiculous! How does a hairstyle impact education? It doesn't! I implore you to make the sensible choice and pass HB567 authored by Representative Rhetta Bowers.

Renee Jones

self

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, TX HB 567. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. HB567 allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school, and home. It ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles. The crown act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue. I am a registered and informed voter of District 46.

Simone Barnes

Self, Education Director

Austin, TX

Dear Governor Abbott, Senator Sarah Eckhardt, and Representative Sheryl Cole,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In August of this year, Massachusetts became the 18th state to pass and make the CROWN Act law. Massachusetts joins California (2019), New York (2019), New Jersey (2019), Virginia (2020), Colorado (2020), Washington (2020), Maryland (2020), Connecticut (2021), Delaware (2021), New Mexico (2021), Nebraska (2021), Nevada (2021), Oregon (2021), Illinois (2021), Maine (2022), Tennessee (2022), Louisiana (2022), as states that have passed CROWN Act legislation protecting Black and Brown people from hair discrimination in school and the workplace.

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In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work.

As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Sincerely,

Simone Monique Barnes

Vernesha Cathey

Self / Secretary

Garland, TX

I am an African American woman, 51 years of age. I have faced hair discrimination most of my life. We should feel free to wear our natural hair in the workplace without ridicule. Let's pass this bill! We need it for the next generation and for those women & men of the past that were tormented or had to relent from wearing their hair how they wanted.

Bethany Stansell

Self - Educator

Channelview, TX

It is absolutely embarrassing that our state continues to add insult to minorities by NOT endorsing the CROWN Act nor any other verbiage to protect its minority constituents. Texas has ongoing opportunities to be leaders yet we have current state leaders who deal in propaganda over people.

Terry Palin, Mr.  
Myself  
San Antonio, TX

I am against this bill and any bill that singles out a segment of the Texas citizenry for discrimination. Any bill like this one smacks of the Jim Crow laws of a past time and Texas does not need to go down this road. How a person wears their hair in the workplace, in school, or anywhere else should be their own choice and not regulated by a government, especially if it targets a race of Texans. Rep. Bowers should rescind this bill or it should be rejected by the legislature.  
Thank you

Virginia Gustin  
Self  
Round Rock, TX

HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In Texas, House Bill 567 has become increasingly necessary as more and more stories of discrimination against students in schools for wearing their natural hair have been reported in the news. In 2020, DeAndre Arnold, a Black student was suspended from school by the Barbers Hill Independent School District because of his dreadlocks. In 2021, 11 year old Troy ISD student Maddox Cozart was given a two week in school suspension for wearing his hair naturally.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join me and others in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Marva Overton

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Representatives serving on the State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to ask that you vote to move HB 567 out of Committee. As you know, HB 567, also known as the Crown Act, seeks to eliminate discrimination on the basis of hair texture and protective style associated with race. While it is unfortunate that there is a need for such legislation, the facts speak for themselves. The CROWN research study found that Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair. Black women are 80% more likely than white women to say that they change their hair from its natural state to fit in at work. Research also shows that Black women with natural hair hairstyles are perceived as less professional than Black women with straightened hair.

Issues regarding differential treatment based on hair texture and protective styles have occurred in the workplace as well as in our education system. Thus, this bill seeks to make illegal this form of discrimination by employers, school districts, and institutions of higher education. It further includes labor unions and housing practices.

As long as we as country continue to grapple with racial discrimination and its impact, legislation such as HB 567 is needed. While my hope is that one day this will not be the case, until then, elected officials such as yourself must enact laws that will ensure the rights of all citizens are protected. The CROWN Act received unanimous support from the State of Affairs Committee in the 87th Legislative Session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle.

Thank you for your taking the time to read this testimony and I urge you to vote “Yes” for HB 567.

Wendi Aarons

self

Bee Cave, TX

The Crown Act will ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles such as braids, locs, twists, and knots in the workplace and public schools. It must be passed.

Shellie Hayes-McMahon

Self

Cedar park, TX

Our family is a natural hair family. My sons and myself as well as the rest of our community should be able to navigate this world as our full authentic selves without fear of discrimination or intimidation. The standard of European beauty is outdated and racist and has no place in our society. The fact that we have to legislate our very being as Black people, still, is problematic on its face. Recognize our full humanity and pass The Crown Act.

Xiaoqin Li

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. No one should be discriminated against based on hair texture or protective hairstyles.

Joseph Williams

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill

Amanda Erickson

Myself

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. No one should be discriminated against due to their hair.

Sharon Jones

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567. As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools.

HB567, The Crown Act:

- Allows people wear their natural hair at work, school, and home.
- Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles.

The Crown Act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

I am a registered and informed voter.

Elicia Baker-Rogers, Dr

Self, Registered Nurse: Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP, RN)

Round Rock, TX

Dear Texas Legislators,

I am "For" the passing of HB 567.

It is so very important that women and men residing in the Great State of Texas be allowed to wear natural and protective hairstyles at their place of employment without fear of discrimination, retaliation, or ostracization.

Respectfully submitted,

Elicia Baker-Rogers, DNP, RN

Anne Russey

Self

Katy, TX

As a small business owner and constituent, I support the passage of HB 567 that would help prevent discrimination on the basis of hair texture and style associated with race. At a time when children's story books celebrating Black hair are being yanked off of library shelves it seems more important than ever to legislate protections for employees of color into Texas law. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Terrese Albright

Self

San Marcos, TX

It is unfair and completely absurd how us as a people, aren't able to live comfortably without being judged by simply being our authentic, natural selves. To be constantly compared to our White counterpart for beauty standards is exhausting. I, as a Black woman, want to be able to be judged on my character, work ethic, etc., rather than the appearance or texture of my hair. It saddens me knowing that instead, there's possibilities of me getting rejected and/or dismissed in situations based on what is deemed an acceptable look for my hair.

Andrea Barefield, Councilmember

Waco City Council, District 1

Waco, TX

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas CROWN Act, Texas HB 567. As a local elected official who is proud to wear my natural hair, I need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. HB567, The CROWN Act: • Allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school, and home. • Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles. The Texas CROWN Act received unanimous support in State Affairs during the 87th Texas Legislative Session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle.

Respectfully,

Andrea J. Barefield

Waco City Council, District 1

Jessica McElroy

Self- Clinical Quality Consultant

Bryan, TX

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas CROWN Act, Texas HB 567. As residents of this great state, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. HB567, The CROWN Act:

- Allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school, and home.
- Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles.

The Texas CROWN Act received unanimous support in State Affairs during the 87th Texas Legislative Session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle. I am hopeful you will support the Texas CROWN Act during this 88th Legislative Session.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brooke Woodard, Dr.

self Educator

Marshall, TX

Dear Chair and Committee ,

I am writing to ask you to support the Texas Crown Act, Texas HB 567.

As your constituent, we need your help to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislation ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools.

HB567, The Crown Act:

- Allows people wear their natural hair at work, school, and home.
- Ensures protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair text and styles.

The Crown Act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please send your response to the address listed below. I will continue to monitor your action on this important issue.

I am a registered and informed voter of District 7.

Sophia Russell

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am writing in support of HB 567. Women and girls in this stage should not be subject to discrimination due to their hair style or texture.

Karla Fleming-Jones

self

Cypress, TX

Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Please vote in favor of HB 567. This bill will go a long way toward removing one of the most subtle forms of discrimination that impacts a large segment of the Texas population. Passage of HB 567 will allow people to wear their natural hair at work, at school and at home. Passage of HB 567 would ensure that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles do not offer a means for unfair discrimination. I implore you to remember your duties to serve all of the people of Texas and do your part to create safe and welcoming environments for all Texans by passing HB 567.

Carmen Kirksey

Delta Sigma Theta

Missouri City, TX

Please support this bill. Everyone's hair is different and should be protected



Amarion Rhodes

Self

Dallas, TX

Good morning, My name is Amarion Rhodes I'm a senior high school student from Kipp Oak Cliff Academy. Today I am urging you to vote in support of The CROWN Act. This bill tells black and brown men and women of Texas that you hear us and you see us.

Hair discrimination is not some made up theory or far-fetched idea. It is a topic of conversation black parents all across the country have with their children as they grow up. According to a study done by Dove, 1 in 2 black children have experienced hair discrimination as early as 5 years old.

I vividly remember my mom enrolling me into a private school when I was 8 years old and being told by the principal I wouldn't be able to attend the school because "my hair would be a distraction to other students" and it was "unprofessional". I was faced with the tough choice of cutting my hair to go to a more rigorous private school, or not cutting my hair and having to go to a less challenging public school. With me being a young child and not understanding what hair discrimination was and what it looked like, I agreed with the principal that my hair was too much of an issue and decided to cut it so I could go to the school. My mom was very vocal about how much she disagreed with my choice, but in the moment, I was confident I was doing the right thing since it would better my education and that came before everything else.

Looking back on this experience, now as a 17-year-old, I deeply regret cutting my hair, but I find myself still justifying the principal's actions and the policy she was following. Having to unlearn some of the things society has programmed us to believe hasn't been easy, but it's an ongoing process that we can't give up on. My story is not just my own, and it is shared by countless other black people when having to choose between bettering our chances for success and "rocking the boat" to call out discrimination.

Another study conducted by The University of New Haven found that 80% of black women are likely to change their natural hair to conform to unfair dress standards because their hairstyles put them at 1.5 times greater risk of being sent home from work. The impact of a hairstyle for black people may seem minute, but the reality is that it contributes heavily to the lack of representation for Black people in some organizational settings.

The Crown act is one step in ensuring that black and brown people are treated equally, that we can feel safe in our own skin as we navigate through school and the professional world. Again, I strongly urge you to vote for HB567 the Crown Act.

Diana Tang

Self

Houston, TX

I am glad to see this bill introduced again this session. The Crown Act will ensure that no student will be discriminated against for their hair or grooming. The act of mandating or punishing students for certain hairstyles is absolutely an example of racial discrimination. I ask that this committee votes yes on this bill unanimously and ensures its swift passage through the House and the Senate.

Jesuorobo Enobakhare Jr

Self

Dallas, TX

A woman's hairstyle should not have any impact on her ability to get an education, a job, nor advance in a career field. We all regardless of political ideology should vote in support of the Crown Act!

Justin Brady-Joyner

Self

Austin, TX

I urge you to support the CROWN Act, and end discrimination based on someone's hair.

Tracy Cook  
Self; Retired Teacher  
Katy, TX

Dear Representative Luttrell,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In August of this year, Massachusetts became the 18th state to pass and make the CROWN Act law. Massachusetts joins California (2019), New York (2019), New Jersey (2019), Virginia (2020), Colorado (2020), Washington (2020), Maryland (2020), Connecticut (2021), Delaware (2021), New Mexico (2021), Nebraska (2021), Nevada (2021), Oregon (2021), Illinois (2021), Maine (2022), Tennessee (2022), Louisiana (2022), as states that have passed CROWN Act legislation protecting Black and Brown people from hair discrimination in school and the workplace.

In Texas, House Bill 567 has become increasingly necessary as more and more stories of discrimination against students in schools for wearing their natural hair have been reported in the news. In 2020, DeAndre Arnold, a Black student was suspended from school by the Barbers Hill Independent School District because of his dreadlocks. In 2021, 11 year old Troy ISD student Maddox Cozart was given a two week in school suspension for wearing his hair naturally.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment. Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study[1]. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work[2].

As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Cook  
Retired Teacher  
19407 Glen Landing Drive  
Katy, TX 77449  
Gtcook@swbell.net

[1]Joy Collective. (2019). Dove 2019 CROWN Research Study.

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5edc69fd622c36173f56651f/t/5edeaaa09a3c4b1e68d153af/1591650978262/DOVE\\_2019HAIR\\_reseach.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5edc69fd622c36173f56651f/t/5edeaaa09a3c4b1e68d153af/1591650978262/DOVE_2019HAIR_reseach.pdf)

[2] MSU research exposes discrimination against Black women with natural hair. Eli Broad College of Business | Michigan State University. (2020, Septem

Tracy Cook  
Self; Retired Teacher  
Katy, TX

Dear Senator Bettencourt,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

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As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

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[2] MSU research exposes discrimination against Black women with natural hair. Eli Broad College of Business | Michigan State University. (2020, September

Tracy Cook  
Self; Retired Teacher  
Katy, TX

Dear Ms Audrey Young,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

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In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment. Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study[1]. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work[2].

As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

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[2] MSU research exposes discrimination against Black women with natural hair. Eli Broad College of Business | Michigan State University. (2020, September 17)

Tracy Cook  
Self; Retired Teacher  
Katy, TX

Dear Senator Cornyn,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

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As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

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Tracy Cook  
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Tracy Cook  
Self; Retired Teacher  
Katy, TX

Dear Senator Cruz,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

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As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

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Shirletta Best

A concerned citizen and member of several agencies

McKinney, TX

Please move forward with passing of this important bill against discrimination under hair textures. Thank you.

Mercedes Ramcharan

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in support of the Texas CROWN Act, Texas HB 567. I believe we need to change the laws in Texas to help end the racial injustice of discrimination against Texans because of their hair. The CROWN Act legislature ensures that traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hair styles are protected from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and K-12 public and charter schools. The CROWN Act allows people to wear their natural hair at work, school and home. And it ensures protection against against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and styles. The CROWN Act received unanimous support in State Affairs in the 87th session. I urge you to help pass the CROWN Act this legislative session as no citizen should fear discrimination of any kind due to hairstyle. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am a registered and informed voter of House District 117.

Kelly Hoover Greenway

Self/TV producer

Austin, TX

I support passing HB 567 as a way to ensure no Texan is discriminated against on the basis of their hair.

Candace Patmon-Griggs

Self

Dallas, TX

The right for protection from discrimination based on how your hair naturally grows and how you choose to wear your hair to protect it should be a law. Non people of color wear cornrows and dreads as a fad or fashion statement and are not discriminated against the way a black person wear the exact same style is, stereotypically negative connotations and perspectives are not the burden of those that choose to wear our styles out of luxury. That double standard is why this law must be enacted.

Amanda Afifi

Texas Association of School Psychologists

Austin, TX

The Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) supports HB 567. Thank you.

Sherry Everitt

Self

Cleburne, TX

I I support HB567

Kara Angell

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill and believe it's the correct step in rectifying the discrimination that people of color, specifically women.

Kimberly Topps

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated

Mansfield, TX

To Whom It May Concern, the fact this bill is even on the floor In the year of 2023 is absolutely ridiculous. No one should be discriminated because of the texture of their hair or hairstyle. Corporations and schools all have dress code policies to follow. Why dispute this issue on such a high level. There are way more important issues such as homelessness, sex trafficking and teens overdosing on fentanyl which should be in the forefront of all law makers.

Nancy Foreman  
Texas UU Justice Ministry  
DALLAS, TX

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to you today regarding House Bill 567, The CROWN Act, by State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HB 567 would end race-based hair discrimination in our schools, universities, workplaces, and housing. As a member of this community, I know how important it is to be able to express oneself without fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, discrimination based on one's physical appearance is a reality across our state. The CROWN Act is an important step in protecting individuals from being discriminated against due to their hairstyle.

In August of this year, Massachusetts became the 18th state to pass and make the CROWN Act law. Massachusetts joins California (2019), New York (2019), New Jersey (2019), Virginia (2020), Colorado (2020), Washington (2020), Maryland (2020), Connecticut (2021), Delaware (2021), New Mexico (2021), Nebraska (2021), Nevada (2021), Oregon (2021), Illinois (2021), Maine (2022), Tennessee (2022), Louisiana (2022), as states that have passed CROWN Act legislation protecting Black and Brown people from hair discrimination in school and the workplace.

In Texas, House Bill 567 has become increasingly necessary as more and more stories of discrimination against students in schools for wearing their natural hair have been reported in the news. In 2020, DeAndre Arnold, a Black student was suspended from school by the Barbers Hill Independent School District because of his dreadlocks. In 2021, 11 year old Troy ISD student Maddox Cozart was given a two week in school suspension for wearing his hair naturally.

In addition to being an important civil rights issue, the CROWN Act is also an important economic issue. Studies show that discriminatory practices in the workplace can have a negative impact on a person's ability to secure and maintain employment.

Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, according to a 2019 study. Another study by Michigan State University found that African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work.

As my elected official I urge you to vote yes on HB 567 when it comes before you. Texas must take all necessary actions to pass the CROWN Act into law. No student or person should face discrimination at school, work, or in housing simply because of their DNA and the way their hair grows from their body. It is our hope that you will join us in publicly supporting HB 567 until it becomes law in Texas.

Sincerely,

Nancy Foreman

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Addie Gomez

Self

Austin, TX

I am a lifelong Texan, a parent, and a public education advocate. I am writing today in strong support for HB 567. The impact of punishing, controlling, or criticizing Black students' hair is devastating. I am so thrilled to see bipartisan support for this bill, because this is not a political issue.

Black hair is beautiful. Black students should be able to be their full selves in school in order to have the best education experience possible. Let's be very clear: the dress code policies that this bill would prohibit are racist. Consider whether a white female student with pigtail braids would ever be called out for violating a hair policy -- of course she wouldn't. But a Black female student with pigtail braids would ever be called out for violating a hair policy -- of course she wouldn't. But a Black female student sitting right next to her could find herself suspended if her braids are considered "distracting".

We have a lot of challenges in our schools, and our focus need to be on what really matters: ensuring more students have access to a joyful, academically excellent public school.

Please vote yes on this bill and send a clear message to Black students in Texas that this state will no longer tolerate racist dress code policies.

Ashley Washington

Self

Irving, TX

I support HB 567.

Thank you Representative Bowers for introducing this bill!

I am a Black woman and almost ten years ago I decided to stop chemically straightening my hair. And from the statistics, I wasn't the only Black woman in America to make this decision. According to the market research firm Kline & Co., sales of chemical hair relaxers to salons and other professionals went from \$71 million in 2011 to \$30 million in 2021. And its unlikely this trend will slow down considering the new scientific research connecting relaxers to uterine cancer. As more Black girls and women forgo chemically treating our hair, it's important that Texas prohibits discriminatory grooming policies once and for all.