



Missouri House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 27, 2024

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Missouri House Passes 'CROWN Act' to Combat Hairstyle Discrimination

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri House this week has passed legislation seeking to protect Missourians from discrimination because of how they choose to style their hair.

In a bipartisan effort, the House voted to approve HB 1900, also known as the “Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair,” or “Missouri CROWN Act.” This act prohibits discrimination based on hair texture or protective hairstyles commonly associated with a particular race or origin. It applies to any educational institution that receives state funding.

HB 1900 was carried by State Representative Raychel Proudie, a teacher and school counselor certified in three states, who said students can’t learn if they are being kept out of the classroom.

“We must be much more interested in what we are putting in a student’s head than what’s going out of it. If we’re distracted by someone’s hair then maybe that’s something we need to take up with a physician, but it’s not the child’s problem,” Proudie, D-Ferguson, said.

Testimony on this matter each year has highlighted instances of discrimination based on hairstyles. Proudie underscored the lasting psychological impact such discrimination can have, especially on children and teens.

“This issue doesn’t just affect African American or minority students. It affects anyone who deserves access to public spaces, including schools, without facing bullying or discrimination,” Proudie added.

The legislation has consistently garnered bipartisan support, with House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, expressing his endorsement. “Through the hearing process, young people testified to their experiences about being made to feel uncomfortable about their natural hairstyles at their schools. This legislation is one more way that we can stand up and let all students know they are welcome and valued, and we in the Missouri House want to see them succeed,” Plocher said.

The bill now goes to the Senate, which has been advancing a similar measure.

Representative Raychel Proudie, a Democrat, represents parts of North St. Louis County (District 73) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first term as a state representative in November 2018. For more information, please contact Rep. Proudie's office at 573-751-0855 or by email at Raychel.Proudie@house.mo.gov.

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