

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Honeybeedoeshair <clstanton322@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:30 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** ATT: House Committee on Education

My name is Christopher Stanton and I have been a licensed cosmetologist for 10 years. I attended the Toni and Guy Hair Academy located in Cranston Rhode Island in 2014.

I'm writing this email today because I specialize in curly and textured hair and the crown act has been something that has been very close to my heart. All throughout my career, I've always been met with resistance for job opportunities or placements at different salons or even opportunities to teach at schools all based on the way that my hair looked.

Nobody ever question my skill set, nobody ever asked my experience. It was just pure judgment stepping into the door. The crown act is important in sustaining the traditions that have been passed on down through generations within our culture.

Job qualifications should be based of performance, education & professionalism. Not off of ours looks, our skin color or our bodies.

I worked previously at a place in Newport where i informed them I would like to get braids in my hair and I was given the ok. I proceeded to get my hair braided that night, and the next day I walked in and was given an ultimatum in keeping my hair or loosing my job. This is the type of stuff that is unacceptable.

There are so many more important things happening in the world right now than to have a meeting to discuss if it's appropriate or not for people to wear their hair, a certain way this is extremely problematic.

We have a bridge crisis in Rhode Island. We have a poverty crisis in Rhode Island. We have a housing crisis in Rhode Island. There are so many so many more important things to discuss then whether somebody should be allowed to wear locks in their hair or they should be able to wear braids or if they decide to wear colorful hair none of that changes your job performance or your skill set.

Working firsthand in this industry I hear stories every day about people being discriminated against based off the way their hair looks and enough is enough. We have to do our part in order to stop segregation within the workforce.

Please consider passing this bill so that our fellow Rhode Islanders don't feel discriminated against don't feel ostracized don't feel shamed based off of the way they decide to wear their hair.

Thank you for your time,

Christopher Stanton  
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