

Lorraine N. Lalli

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Testimony of Lorraine N. Lalli
In Support of House Bill 7724 – AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION –
OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS – THE CROWN ACT

Chairman McNamara and members of the House Committee on Education
Rhode Island General Assembly
RI State House
Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the RI House Education Committee:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the House Bill 7724 aimed at protecting the rights of African Americans to wear natural hair styles, free from discrimination and bias in Rhode Island schools. As a concerned citizen and advocate for equality, I believe that it is crucial to protect youth from the unjust practices and policies that have disproportionately affected individuals based on their natural hair textures and styles.

Natural hair, including afros, braids, twists, and locs, is an integral part of African American culture and identity. Unfortunately, individuals with natural hair often face discrimination in various aspects of life, including education, employment, and public accommodations. This discrimination not only violates the principles of equality and justice but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes that undermine the diverse beauty of our society.

Legislation to protect natural hair styles is an essential step towards fostering inclusivity and ensuring that every individual can express their cultural identity without fear of reprisal. By enacting and enforcing such legislation, we send a clear message that discrimination based on hair texture or style is unacceptable and has no place in our society.

Furthermore, protecting natural hair styles contributes to a more diverse and representative Rhode Island. Many African Americans have been forced to conform to Eurocentric standards of beauty in professional settings, leading to the erasure of their cultural identity. This legislation will help create a more inclusive environment where individuals can bring their whole selves to the educational settings, fostering creativity, innovation, and a sense of belonging.

I urge you to consider the significance of this legislation in promoting equality, fostering diversity, and ensuring that all individuals can navigate society without fear of discrimination based on their natural hair. By supporting and championing this cause, you contribute to building a more just and equitable future for everyone.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to justice.

Sincerely,



Lorraine N. Lalli, Esq.