



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
Room 101, Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: 2024 – H 7724 – The Crown Act**

Dear Chairman McNamara,

I am writing today to voice my support for House Bill 7724, Relating to Education—Offenses Pertaining to Schools, also known as the Crown Act. This bill adds protections against discrimination in schools for protective hairstyles, hair texture, and other physically traits historically associated with race.

For far too long, hair texture and protective hair styles have been deemed as “unprofessional” in the education settings and the workplace, allowing administrators or employers to discriminate against Black communities and other communities of color because of their natural hair texture. The Crown Act will address short-comings in previous anti-discrimination legislation by specifically banning hair-based discrimination in our schools.

Passage of the Crown Act in Rhode Island is an important step in advancing racial equity in our state. We must do our part to recognize and combat the ways hair discrimination perpetuates systemic racism. I hope you will join me in supporting H 7742.

Sincerely,  
Sabina Matos

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Lieutenant Governor  
State of Rhode Island

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education  
The Honorable Brianna Henries  
Nicole McCarty, Esq.