

**Date of Testimony: March 10, 2022**  
**Bill Number: SB130**  
**Disposition: Proponent**  
**Oral virtual testimony**  
**Name of conferee: Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn**  
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**Name of interest represented: NAACP Kansas State Conference**



**Proponent Testimony on SB 130**  
**March 10, 2022**

Thank you to the committee for providing the opportunity to come before you to testify as a proponent of SB 130.

On behalf of the NAACP Kansas State Conference and its diverse membership, it is time to pass SB130. It has been a couple of years since this bill was first introduced and Kansas has become sandwiched between two states that have already passed similar Crown Act bills - Colorado and Missouri. It has now been nearly three years since California signed a similar bill into law in July 2019.

The Kansas City Council unanimously passed ordinance 200837 on October 1, 2020 to recognize and honor the rights of people to not be discriminated against by wearing natural hairstyles and seven plus states have passed similar legislation.

Although no one should have to change their hairstyles simply to be recognized as duly qualified professionals in any workplace environment, unfortunately, many people of color feel compelled to in order to eliminate the risk of being fired or worse, not getting hired in the first place.

It would be totally naive to think that hair discrimination does not exist in Kansas. Black Students and athletes at Highland college alleged discrimination against them for their natural hairstyles. The NAACP received this complaint. The ACLU is also reviewing the issue.

Let's have SB130 serve as a solution to a problem before we are significantly faced with large scale discrimination on the basis of hair discrimination.

As committee members, you have the option to make this bill meaningful through its passing. Had this bill passed a couple of years ago when it was first introduced, it could have served as a precedent for schools and workplaces and could have prevented discrimination matters that we have going on with Highland college.

SB 130 is a low hanging fruit that once passed could have significant and positive results for the citizens of Kansas. Now is the time for us to ban hair discrimination and you can be on the right side of equality by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn  
Political Action Committee Chair  
Kansas NAACP

Kenya Cox, President  
Kansas NAACP