



February 28, 2020

To: The Senate Rules Committee

From: Lafonda Grant, Community Leader, Forward Together Action

Re: Support of HB 4107

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

Forward Together Action is an affiliated organization of Forward Together, which is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of organizing, movement building and power building for communities of color. Forward Together Action pushes for the changes needed to create systems that serve all of us. We know that when women of color, gender nonconforming people and Indigenous communities lead---and lawmakers listen---we all win. I am writing to you today in support of HB 4107, the CROWN Act bill.

My nine children have multi-cultural backgrounds with all having different types of hair. We like to show our beauty with braids, colors, short or long styles. When my niece was in middle school, she had a shade of blue woven into her hair. Her school told her that the color in her hair was not a part of the dress code. At such a young age, she was embarrassed and upset that her hair was looked at as a problem.

It feels it is discrimination when my children cannot wear certain colors to school or styles because it could be profiled as gang affiliation or something else racialized. At work, it's just as bad during interviews for employment. Having the CROWN Act is very important for people of colors' rights. Plenty of us are well qualified and very intelligent. Don't look at my hair to measure my worth.

Please support HB 4107. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Lafonda Grant

Forward Together Action Community Leader

Forward Together Action