



Eugenie Adaah-Tassah

May 13th, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

RE: Support HB 2935 the CROWN Act

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

My name is Eugenie Adamah-Tassah and I live in Beaverton. I am writing to you in support of HB 2935, the CROWN Act.

I always felt good about my hair until I was told that I needed to “look professional.” After an inquiry from one of my friends at work, I realized that being professional in the U.S. was in fact related to my hair and my scarf. Before coming to the U.S., I knew that braiding my hair or wearing a scarf that matches my outfit was an appropriate attirement. So as an adult, it was confusing for me to hear that I had to be more professional while I knew that I was properly dressed and sometimes I looked sharper than some of my non-Black colleagues!

I have been told to look “more professional” in different work settings, so I decided to straighten my hair, which resulted in being praised for my straight hair. But the result of that action led to hair loss. It was obvious to me that my work environment wanted me to present my hair in a manner that fits the most dominant standard in the US. But what is not taken into consideration here is that although we all belong to “One human race”, there are some biological differences that cause certain people to require different care.

And that is the case of people with certain types of hair, like myself. Why do I need to assimilate to the dominant culture in order to be allowed to fit in my workplace? Why is my hair and my scarf an issue when it does not pose any harm? Why is diversity fought against instead of being celebrated? What would this world look like if we all looked the same and acted the same way? I am comfortable in my hair and my scarf and it does not hinder me from accomplishing my duty as an employee. So why does it make others feel uncomfortable?

I am standing up and speaking in order to help the voices of other Black Oregonians to be heard. I am standing up to ask that we implement regulations that allow Black people to be who they are without compromise. I am speaking so that a culture of inclusivity and true diversity will be honored, and that Black people should no longer suffer discrimination and unjust treatment because of their hair.



This is why we need you to pass the CROWN Act. Please support and vote yes on HB 2935. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eugenie Adaah-Tassah

Forward Together Action

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