

U.S. Rep. Moore: Presses for support from VP Harris on passage of the CROWN Act in both chambers this Congress

Posted on Monday, Mar 22, 2021

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

Washington, DC (March 22, 2021) – Today, **Congressmembers Gwen Moore (WI-04), Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Barbara Lee (CA-13), Ilhan Omar (MN-05), and Ayanna Pressley (MA-07)** announced the reintroduction of The Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair or **CROWN Act** in the House of Representatives, simultaneously releasing a letter sent to Vice President Kamala Harris urging her to use her platform as the first Black woman to hold that office to help ensure the bill reaches the President’s desk this Congress. **Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)** also announced reintroduction of the CROWN Act in the Senate.

“As a woman of color, we know that you understand personally the ways in which bias – overt discrimination and its equally harmful unintentional and systemic counterparts – shapes so much of the world,” the [letter to Vice President Harris from the five bill co-leads reads](#). “We know that you are deeply committed to ending these biases and using your office to ensure equitable access and opportunity for everyone. We ask that, among your priorities, you advocate for the passage of the CROWN Act.”

The CROWN Act, which has become law in a number of states and cities nationwide and passed in the House of Representatives in 2019, would help bring an end to race-based hair discrimination and remove a massive and entirely illogical educational and employment barrier facing African Americans. In the school setting, Black students are disciplined at a rate four times higher than any other racial or ethnic group, and [research has found that 70 percent of all suspension disciplines](#)

[are discretionary](#), many stemming from dress code violations, including “unapproved” hair styles. Meanwhile, in the workplace, [bias against ethnic and natural hairstyles](#) contributes to reduced opportunities for job advancement, particularly for women.

These concerns and others drew support from the **Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls**, which today released [a letter to House and Senate leadership](#) urging quick work in both chambers to get the bill to President Biden.

“As co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, we urge you to ensure that floor consideration of the CROWN Act is a priority in the calendar of the 117th Congress,” wrote co-chairs and co-founders Watson Coleman, Robin Kelly and Yvette Clarke. “Black women face a disruptive stigma, bias, and discrimination that impedes their progress financially, educationally, and socially. We founded the caucus to address those hurdles and press for equity in the policy making that Members of Congress are responsible for. The CROWN Act is among many bills poised to tear down a major barrier for this constituency – hair discrimination

The CROWN Act would:

- Provide research, statistics, and precedent to support a sense of Congress that there is a need to define and prohibit hair discrimination in the workplace, schools, and housing to enforce the protection of civil rights.
- Prohibit discrimination based on an individual’s style or texture of hair by including an individual’s style of hair that is tightly coiled or tightly-curved, locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, Afros and any other style of hair commonly associated with a race or national origin in the definition of racial discrimination.
- Provide clear definitions that describe the enforcement mechanisms of the bill.

To view the text of the bill introduced today, [click here](#). To view the letter to Vice President Harris, [click here](#).