

Crown Act Testimony

Good morning everyone, My name is Lenora Warfield. I am an African American Female entrepreneur. I own my home and have my Hair salon located inside of a senior living building in Fridley MN as well.

Growing up, I loved the fact that my hair was very versatile. I would always style my hair, I would wear my natural curls, braids, straighten it, or even wear extensions. I take great pride in my hair. Once I joined the working field, I worked primarily in health care as a Certified Nursing Assistant because I loved to care for others.

While working in health care; I rarely felt that there was much discrimination against my hair as people needed me to help them in their cares. My hair did not define my abilities to care for them as long as I was helping them. Now that I am a business owner servicing clients in a setting that are mainly caucasian, and may have failing health. I see that the discrimination is more prevalent. I see it when I get the stares or the obscene questions of how do I care for my own hair or how would I care for their hair. I see it when the residents would rather go to a different salon when there is one located right inside their place of residence.

This is the reason why I am dedicated to raising the issue that there is discrimination based on my hair. I feel that my Cosmetology License, my Business License, and my professionalism should let people know that I am capable enough and know enough to care for their hair as well.

Like you, as a politician, I am successful, educated, I am a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist church. I am also a member of the Minneapolis Urban League Twin Cities Young Professionals. I volunteer my services to help others to bridge the gap in generational wealth in our communities as well. I am a positive contributor to my community, this state and the world; and yet, the first thing I am judged on is my hair which is simply a representation of who I am, my heritage, my roots. I am a proud successful contributing African American. Imagine what life would be like for you and your children if people like me are continued to be intimidated, not hired, not advanced, treated poorly and discriminated against with racist behavior simply based on their hair. I respectfully ask that you support this bill to pass the Crown Act. Let's join those states who are making the statement to move just that much closer to a just, a fair, and human society.

Thank you.

Lenora Warfield.