

National Black Caucus of State Legislators



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September 14, 2020

Honorable Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress  
506 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond,

As President-Elect of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), I indeed appreciate this opportunity to express our full support for the passage by the United States Congress of legislation known as the "CROWN (Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) Act." This act would ensure the needed protection against discrimination based on raced-based hairstyles by extending Federal statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles such as Afros, braids, locs, twists, etc., in the workplace and public schools.

As a former member yourself, you are aware that NBCSL is the organization that represents the interests of the Nation's African-American State legislators and serves more than sixty million Americans. Past members include almost 40% of the present U.S. Congressional Black Caucus as well as the 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. As advocates of the CROWN Act we have seen it come to fruition in several states, with many other states considering the same.

While our state efforts will continue, the importance of Federal action cannot be over-emphasized, inasmuch as it will provide much needed protections that states cannot offer.

If you would like any additional information or further assistance, as you consider this important issue, please contact me.

I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Service,



Billy Mitchell  
President-Elect

bm/ac  
copy: AAsamoah