



CELEBRATING CROWN DAY

The Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2022, commonly known as the CROWN Act, aimed to combat discrimination based on hair texture or hairstyle. Introduced in the United States Congress, it sought to classify such discrimination as illegal under federal law. The act applied to federally assisted programs, housing, public accommodations, and employment. New Jersey Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman introduced the bill in the House of Representatives on March 19, 2021, with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker introducing a companion bill in the Senate on March 22, 2021. Although the CROWN Act of 2022 did not become federal law, many states, including New Jersey, have independently passed it.

CROWN Day, observed on July 3rd, commemorates the passage of the first CROWN Act in California in 2019. This legislation prohibits race-based hair discrimination in professional, educational, and societal contexts. Historically, Black individuals faced unfair limitations and judgments due to their natural hair. The Act ensures equal treatment, regardless of how a person chooses to wear their hair. Governor Phil Murphy signed the CROWN Act into law in New Jersey on December 19, 2019, exactly one year after a high school student was compelled to cut off his dreadlocks to participate in a wrestling match. To date, 23 other states and 51 cities have enshrined the CROWN Act into law.