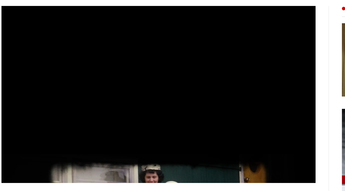
HOW TO HELP KSLNEWSRADIO KSLTV KSL FLOOD WATCH

LOCAL NEWS

Groups Hope For Second Chance At Natural Hairstyle Protection Bill

Feb 22, 2021, 6:46 PM | Updated: Jan 4, 2023, 5:19 pm



BY SHELBY HINTZE
KSLTV.com

Share

SALT LAKE CITY — A group of advocates pushed for lawmakers to take another look at a bill that would prevent discrimination against hairstyles traditionally associated with race.

"I want to be able to go in if I choose to, to go into work with my hair like this," said Alyssha Dairsow, speaking of her short afro hairstyle.

Right now in Utah, there is nothing stopping an employer from telling Dairsow that her natural hairstyle is unprofessional and she needs to change it.

SB80 is looking to change that. The bill — sponsored by Utah Sen. Derek Kitchen, D-Salt Lake City — would amend the Utah Antidiscrimination Act to "provide protection for immutable traits and hairstyles historically associated with race." That includes styles like braids, cornrows, and locs, which offer protection to natural hair and natural styles like an afro.

Earlier in the month, the Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee listened to testimony from several people of color, including a man who said his Native American sons face bullying and harassment because of their hair, which is long for cultural reasons.

The committee ultimately decided to not move forward with the bill, saying it didn't require a law.

Dairsow, the founder of a nonprofit called Curly Me — designed to empower girls of color — was disappointed by that response.

"Even if it doesn't happen to you, understanding that it happens to a resident in your state, there should be some type of empathy there," she said.

She also believes policy helps to shape attitudes and will make a positive change in the way people view what is and isn't "professional."

"Who's to say that my hair isn't professional? Who's to say that my braids aren't professional?" she said. "Just because you don't see it in your workplace, that might say something about bias — implicit bias that you may have."

The bill now has its second chance at life.

Sen. Kitchen said he hopes to revive it before the committee this week.

Follow @KSLSTV Like us on Facebook

Share

KSL 5 TV Live

Local News

Mary Culbertson

Driver ejected from crash at Kimball Junction

One person is dead after two cars collided, causing one to roll and the driver to be ejected.

2 hours ago

Mary Culbertson

One man critical after West Jordan apartment shooting

One man is in critical condition after a West Jordan shooting. Police are still searching for a suspect and motive.

3 hours ago

KSL TV

Sunday Edition: Yuval Levin

Yuval Levin, director of Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies at AEI, joins the show to discuss how the Constitution can help Americans to act unified, when we have forgotten how to properly disagree.

3 hours ago

Alex Cabrero

Hundreds take part in 5K run to honor teen hit and killed this week

A 5K run was held Saturday morning in memory of a 17-year-old girl who was struck and killed by a vehicle earlier this week.

18 hours ago

Cassidy Wixom

Missing Kearns man located safe, police say

Unified Police say they have found a man who went missing on Friday evening. He was found safe.

19 hours ago

Mark Jones

Sister Kathleen Eyring laid to rest, remembered as devoted to her family and faith

The funeral service for sister Kathleen Eyring, wife to Henry B, Eyring, Second Counselor in The First Presidency, was held Saturday.

22 hours ago

Sponsored Articles

Les Olson

How to Stay Safe from Cybersecurity Threats

Read our tips for reading for how to respond to rising cybersecurity threats in 2023 and beyond to keep yourself and your company safe.

Lighting Design

Lighting Design 101: Learn the Basics

These lighting design basics will help you when designing your home, so you can meet both practical and aesthetic needs.

Three Bear Lodge

Yellowstone in the Fall: A Wildlife Spectacle Worth Witnessing

While most people travel to this park in the summer, late fall in Yellowstone provides a wealth of highlights to make a memorable experience.

Little Orchard Preschool

6 Benefits of Preschool for Kids

Some of the benefits of preschool for kids include developing independence, curiosity, and learning more about the world.

DAYS OF '47 RODEO

Get Ready for the Days of '47 Rodeo!

The Days of '47 Rodeo is a series of events everyone in the family can enjoy, with world-class rodeo contestants vying for the gold medal.

Lighting Design

How to Know When to Upgrade Your Lighting

This guide explores indicators that suggest it's time for a lighting upgrade with tips to make an informed decision when you're ready to buy.

© 2023 BONNEVILLE INTERNATIONAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.