



Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs  
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs  
**PROPONENT – Senate Bill 36**  
Written Only

January 11, 2024

Chair Thompson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding SB 36.

Kansas NEA supports equal rights and equity of opportunity to all persons regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity.

Senate Bill 36 provides additional protections against discrimination for persons of color by incorporating hair texture and protective hairstyles into the definition of race in the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

Not only is this the right thing to do for the students that have been targeted, but from an educational perspective, this bill will help prevent top-down discriminatory behaviors that are ultimately left to the educator to enforce. This dynamic ultimately drives a wedge between educators, students, student families, and the communities that rely on the public education system as well as leaving the educator in the position of liability.

Kansas NEA is thankful the committee is discussing this very important issue, and we encourage passage of Senate Bill 36.