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**From:** Amber Shields [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** David Song <[David.Song@akleg.gov](mailto:David.Song@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB 312 Advocacy Letter

Dear *Legislative Aide David Song*:

My name is Amber Arnaqulluk Shields. I am a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage pursuing my Bachelors of Social Work degree. I am writing to you for an assignment in my policy class. The policy that I am writing to you about is HB 312: "An Act relating to dress codes and natural hairstyles." I am in favor of this bill.

As part of the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community, I believe that this bill should be passed. Not just for myself, but so my children, and children in the future can quit feeling discriminated against. Growing up, I felt like I had to straighten my hair just for my hair to be acceptable for the people around me. As a result of constantly straightening my hair, due to the heat, I had damaged hair which made it a lot more complicated to work with. I ended up having to chop my hair off due to it being heavily damaged. Children should not have to feel discriminated against due to their natural hair that they are born with.

As being part of the BIPOC community, we have to change our appearance for the dominated culture. We should not have to feel the need to change our appearance, and shift our cultural practices for other people's pleasure. We should be able to have the freedom to practice our cultural norms without being discriminated against.

I hope you take what I have written into consideration, and help pass HB 312: "An Act relating to dress codes and natural hairstyles." It will not only serve justice for my generation, but also for the generations before us. It will uplift the future BIPOC children, and they will have one less reason to be discriminated against by people that are part of the dominant cultures. I am able to be reached by email at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Amber Arnaqulluk Shields