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Statement of Essie Grundy

When I walked down the aisle and saw that Walmart had placed all of the African American hair and skin products under lock and key, I had to pause. I had to step back. I was in shock. I realized that all the similar products for other races were freely available, but not for African Americans.

I was angry, sad, frustrated, and humiliated all at the same time.

It was so emotional, it is hard to describe. I know that there is a lot of racism out there, but I have not been faced with it up close. When I realized that Walmart was segregating our products from the products of other races, I felt not wanted. I felt that I belonged in a category and that as an African American I was not welcome at Walmart.

I felt that I was being treated as a person who might be a thief, even though I have no criminal history and have always been a law abiding person. That is why I am speaking out and have filed a lawsuit today. I never want my children, or anyone else's children, to experience what I did in Walmart that day.

Represented by Gloria Allred
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