



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 12, 2020

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.

Re: Public Health – Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals – SB 729 – SUPPORT

Chairman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. We champion legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. On behalf of our board of directors and our thousands of members across the State, I urge you to support Public Health – Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals – SB 729.

This bill would prohibit conducting or contracting for animal testing in the development of a cosmetic as well as prohibit a manufacturer from selling or offering a cosmetic for sale in Maryland cosmetic under certain circumstances beginning July 1, 2021.

In 2020, laws to ban the sale or import of cosmetics on animals took effect in California, Illinois, and Nevada. Hawaii, New York, Virginia and New Jersey are in the process of passing similar legislation. Animal-tested cosmetics already are banned in the Europe Union, India, and Israel.

Alternatives to animal testing are available and being implemented. In many instances, lab - grown cells are being used to test whether a cosmetic is safe. Cosmetics giants such as Unilever, Avon, and Procter & Gamble are using a product called EpiDerm that is made from cells taken during procedures such as breast reductions and tummy tucks as a substitute for animal skin in their testing protocols.

Animal testing correctly predicts human reaction to cosmetics approximately 40 % - 60% of the time, as opposed to using alternative testing, which is accurate close to 80% of the time. Not only is animal testing inefficient, but also it can be expensive as animals have to be fed, housed, and given veterinary care.

It may seem like simply a “cosmetic change” but to the animals enduring those gruesome tests, it’s way more than skin deep.

I would like to thank Senator Lam for sponsoring SB 729 and urge a favorable report.