



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in Support of SB 729
Presented to the Senate Finance Committee
March 12, 2020
By Kathleen Conlee, Vice President, Animal Research Issues
The Humane Society of the United States**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Maryland members and supporters urging the committee to pass SB 729. This legislation prohibits conducting or contracting for animal testing in the development of a cosmetic beginning January 1, 2021. SB 729 also prohibits the sale (effective July 1, 2021) in Maryland of any cosmetic, for which an animal test was conducted or contracted by or on behalf of the manufacturer, or any supplier of the manufacturer, after January 1, 2021. SB 729 does contain limited exceptions that allow for animal testing under certain conditions including testing done to satisfy regulatory requirements and to address specific and serious human health concerns.

There are no animal testing requirements for cosmetic safety substantiation in the United States. Congress is currently considering the Humane Cosmetics Act (H.R. 5141/S.2886), bipartisan federal legislation to end the production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics. The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Personal Care Products Council, the leading national trade association representing global cosmetics and personal care products companies, have joined together to support this legislation in an unprecedented agreement to bring about an end to cosmetic animal testing in the United States.

In traditional animal tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and rats have substances forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes, or smeared onto their skin before they are killed. These test methods are unreliable predictors of human safety. Different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals. Consequently, animal tests may under- or over-estimate real-world hazards to people. In addition, results from animal tests can be quite variable and difficult to interpret.

Fortunately, animal testing for cosmetics is completely unnecessary. Companies can already create great products using thousands of available ingredients that have a history of safe use and do not require new testing. For new ingredients where animal testing may currently be used, many non-animal methods have been, and continue to be, developed. Non-animal methods can combine human cell-based tests and sophisticated computer models to deliver human-relevant results at less cost and in less time than traditional animal tests.

There has been a global trend toward eliminating cosmetic animal testing. In 2018, California

became the first state in the country to ban the sale of cosmetics newly tested on animals followed by Nevada and Illinois in 2019. Historically, the European Union (EU) began the trend in 2013 by finalizing a ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, creating the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetics marketplace. This ban compelled cosmetic companies around the world to end animal testing and invest in the development of alternatives in order to sell in the EU. Similar bans have also been enacted in Israel, Norway, India, Switzerland, and most recently in Australia. In order to sell their products in any of these countries, cosmetic companies must already comply with bans on animal testing.

HSUS urges your support of SB 729 to help bring about an end to animal testing for cosmetics.