

TESTIMONY: HB 611 (favorable)

Public Health - Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals

Health and Government Operations Committee Hearing February 16, 2021

Maryland House of Delegates

I am writing in my personal capacity to support HB 611, which ends the production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics in Maryland. Such testing is cruel and unnecessary. There is a growing movement around the world as well as in the United States to support “cruelty free cosmetics” and to ban cosmetics that test on animals from the marketplace.

Rabbits are one of the animals most commonly subjected to these horrible tests. Six years ago, I established the first rabbit rescue (a nonprofit, completely volunteer based) on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. We have since taken in over 300 abandoned pet rabbits, showing the dire need for our services. Our volunteers work tirelessly to find suitable homes and to educate new rabbit owners on bunny care. We are dedicated to these efforts because rabbits are sensitive, emotional, and intelligent creatures. They can form bonds of affection with their families. To see photos of rabbits being restrained in labs -- so that they can be tortured with tests and then disposed of -- is very distressing to those of us who love rabbits.

I would be very proud of Maryland to join California, Nevada and Illinois in leading the nation on this issue.

Sincerely,

Cora C. Dickson

Founder, Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue and Education Center (ESRREC)

Rock Hall, MD

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