



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 23, 2021

To: House Health and Government Operations Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Public Health – Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals – SB 282 – SUPPORT

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena- Melnyk, members of the Health and Government Operations 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 282.

Since the introduction and passage of this bill in the Maryland General Assembly, Virginia became the fourth state to pass this legislation, joining California, Illinois, and Nevada. Several other states including Hawaii, New York, Rhode Island, 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.

This 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 282 and urge a favorable report.