



Know your environment.  
Protect your health.

Testimony of Scott Faber  
Senior Vice President for Government Affairs  
Environmental Working Group  
On H.B. 643  
Before the  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Position: **Favorable**

February 16, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to join the Personal Care Products Council in support of H.B. 643.

Few consumer products contribute as many chemical exposures as cosmetics and other personal care products. Each day, American women use an average of 12 personal care products that contain 168 different chemicals. Men use an average of six personal care products that contain 85 different chemicals. Many of these products are applied directly to the skin, the body's largest organ, where ingredients can be absorbed directly into the bloodstream.

The use of cosmetics and personal care products has grown dramatically since 1938, when Congress last enacted cosmetics legislation. In 1938, the cosmetics industry reported approximately \$1 billion in sales. In 2016, it reported more than \$169 billion in sales. However, cosmetic safety regulation has not kept pace with changes in marketplace.

As a result, the U.S. has also fallen far behind our international trading partners in the regulation of cosmetics. More than 40 nations have taken steps to ban or restrict, in combination, more than 1,600 chemicals or contaminants in cosmetics and personal care products.

Like passage of A.B. 2762 by California's legislature, passage of H.B. 643 will help modernize our cosmetics laws and bring our nation one step closer to global regulatory alignment. All of the ingredients banned by H.B. 643 are already prohibited from cosmetics and other personal care products sold in the EU and other nations.

Thank you for the opportunity to join the Personal Care Products Council in support of H.B. 643. I am happy to answer your questions.