



The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Vice-Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 21, 2021

RE: Please Support HB 611

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass, Vice-Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing on behalf of MOM's Organic Market to express our support for HB 611, legislation that will prohibit the production and sale of cosmetic products that have been tested on animals. As a company based in Rockville operating 10 stores in Maryland, MOM's has been committed to selling cruelty-free cosmetics for the past 33 years.

Animal testing for cosmetics is unnecessary and outdated. Innovative products can be created using thousands of ingredients that have already been proven to be safe. For new ingredients, there are many non-animal test methods available that can be used for safety evaluations. These alternatives provide data that is more relevant to humans and offer savings in time and cost from traditional animal tests.

More than 30 countries including the European Union, India, Israel, Norway and Switzerland have already banned production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics, and international companies must already be in compliance with bans in those countries. Laws to end the sale of animal-tested cosmetics have also passed in California, Nevada and Illinois. Passage of HB 611 would help push for harmonization of U.S. cosmetic policy with these states and countries and facilitate the trade of safe and humane cosmetic products worldwide.

Now is the time for Maryland to lead the way in establishing a cruelty-free cosmetics market in the United States. We urge your strong support for HB 611.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alexandra DySard
Environmental & Partnership Manager
MOM's Organic Market