

Testimony of Ella Friedman
In Support of HB 611

I am Ella Friedman, and I am a 10th grader at Sherwood High School in Olney, MD. In Girl Scouts, we are supposed to do a project that makes an impact on our local community. It's called the gold award, and it is equivalent to an Eagle Scout Award. I've always loved animals, so I decided that I wanted to do something that strengthens laws to protect them.

As I started my research in 2019, I learned how more and more cosmetic companies are producing cosmetics that have not been tested on animals. I learned that using animals for testing the safety of cosmetics such as lipstick and shampoo is unnecessary and cruel.

The practice of dropping substances in the eyes of rabbits or rubbing on the skin of guinea pigs is outdated and should be abandoned. More and more companies are using computer models and human cells to ensure their products are safe which makes sense because these methods are faster, cheaper, and more accurately predict the effects on the human body.

To bring awareness and to show the House and Senate that people care about this issue, I spent four weeks last year before COVID gathering

signatures from my classmates. The reaction I received was overwhelmingly positive. I was thrilled that the students at Sherwood, consumers of many cosmetic products, do not want innocent animals to die for such trivial things such as pretty eye shadow, and they eagerly signed my petition. I gathered 500 signatures from the students at my school.

I also started a petition on Change.org last year that had 250 signatures. Similarly, this year, I started a petition in support of Delegate Hill's bill, HB 611, that already has over 1100 signatures.

Similar laws have already passed in the states of California, Illinois, and Nevada and in numerous countries around the world, including India, Israel, Norway, Brazil, New Zealand, Korea, and the European Union. It's time for Maryland to join the growing trend of adopting cruelty-free laws.

Please support HB 611 to protect animals and consumers.