



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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February 16, 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 – HB 611 – 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 Maryland, I urge you to support Public Health – Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals – HB 611.

California, Illinois, and Nevada passed laws that go into effect this year to ban the sale or import of animal-tested cosmetics. Hawaii, New York, Virginia, and New Jersey are in the process of passing similar legislation. Animal-tested cosmetics already are banned in the Europe Union, Israel, and India. As a result of the ban in the European Union, many international companies have eliminated the use of animals when testing their products.

There are scientific and economic reasons that the cosmetics industry is moving away from animal testing. First, animal sensitivity to cosmetics is not necessarily a true predictor of human sensitivity to those products. Second, there are alternatives to using animal subjects. Unilever, Avon, and Procter and Gamble have successfully used synthetic tissue to test the safety of their cosmetics. On the business side, doing testing on animals can be expensive as these animals have to be fed, housed, and given veterinary care. Finally, companies reap economic benefits as many current and new customers actively select cosmetics that are not tested on animals.

By passing this bill, Maryland is sending a message that our state embraces corporate social responsibility, and welcomes businesses that incorporate an environmental, social, and governmental business model, also known as ESG.

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 Delegate Hill for sponsoring HB 611 and urge a favorable report.