



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in Support of HB 611
Presented to the House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 16, 2021
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The Humane Society of the United States**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Maryland members and supporters urging the committee to pass HB 611. This legislation prohibits conducting or contracting for animal testing in the development of a cosmetic beginning January 1, 2022. HB 611 also prohibits the sale (effective July 1, 2022) in Maryland of any cosmetic for which an animal test was conducted or contracted by, or on behalf of, the manufacturer, or any supplier of the manufacturer, after January 1, 2022. HB 611 does contain limited exceptions that allow for animal testing under certain conditions including testing done to satisfy regulatory requirements and to address specific and serious human health concerns.

HB 611 has the support of several companies manufacturing or selling products in Maryland: Jill Turnbull Beauty (Baltimore), LUSH (stores in Annapolis, Baltimore, Bethesda, Columbia, Towson), MOM's Organic Market (stores in Baltimore, Bowie, College Park, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Jessup, Rockville, Timonium, Waldorf, White Marsh), and ReNew Botanicals Skin Care (Baltimore).

Last Congress, federal legislators considered the Humane Cosmetics Act, bipartisan legislation to end the production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics. HSUS, Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC), the leading national trade association representing global cosmetics and personal care products companies, joined together to support this legislation in an unprecedented agreement to bring about an end to cosmetic animal testing in the United States. In addition to PCPC, which represents approximately 600 member companies, more than 325 individual companies have endorsed this federal effort. This corporate support either obtained through their membership with PCPC or their individual endorsement includes 8 companies headquartered in Maryland: Decernis (Rockville), Hi-Tech Color, Inc. (Odenton), Integral Consulting Inc. (Annapolis), Jill Turnbull beauty (Baltimore), Joyful Bath Co. (North Bethesda), MOM's Organic Market (Rockville), ReNew Botanicals Skin Care (Baltimore), and SEEN Hair Care (Clarity Cosmetics, Inc.) (Bethesda).

In traditional animal tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and rats have substances forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes, or smeared onto their skin before they are killed. These test methods are unreliable predictors of human safety. Different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals. Consequently, animal tests may under- or over-estimate real-world hazards to people. In addition, results from animal tests can be quite

variable and difficult to interpret.

Fortunately, animal testing for cosmetics is completely unnecessary. There are no animal testing requirements for cosmetic safety substantiation in the United States. Companies can already create great products using thousands of available ingredients that have a history of safe use and do not require new testing. For new ingredients where animal testing may currently be used, many non-animal methods have been, and continue to be, developed. Non-animal methods can combine human cell-based tests and sophisticated computer models to deliver human-relevant results at less cost and in less time than traditional animal tests.

There has been a global trend toward eliminating cosmetic animal testing. In 2018, California became the first state in the country to ban the sale of cosmetics newly tested on animals followed by Nevada and Illinois in 2019. Historically, the European Union (EU) began the trend in 2013 by finalizing a ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, creating the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetics marketplace. This ban compelled cosmetic companies around the world to end animal testing and invest in the development of non-animal methods instead. Similar bans have also been enacted in Israel, Norway, India, Switzerland, and Australia. In order to sell their products in any of these countries or states, cosmetic companies must already comply with bans on animal testing.

HSUS urges a favorable report of HB 611 to help bring about an end to animal testing for cosmetics.