



Animal Defenders International

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In support of Maryland SB282/ HB611

Animal Defenders International offers the following in strong support of MD **SB282/ HB611**, (to prohibit animal testing in the development of a cosmetic and the sale of such cosmetics in the state), with our thanks to its sponsors Senator Lam and House Delegate Hill. We hope this informs your review and we ask you to support an end to cruel and unnecessary animal testing for cosmetics.

ADI investigations expose terrible torment endured by animals in cosmetics testing, including racks of rabbits restrained in stocks while products are dripped into their eyes, and guinea pigs suffering raw and inflamed skin lesions. These tests typically involve:

- Repeat dose toxicity - a product may be pumped down an animal's throat or applied to its skin, or the animal might be forced to inhale it - to observe chronic, long-term effects on organs.
- Skin sensitization - may involve skin abrasions and deliberately causing painful damage to assess potential allergic reactions to substances with contact.
- Carcinogenicity - animals are exposed and monitored for cell changes during or after exposure, that could lead to the development of cancer.
- Reproductive toxicity - animals are exposed to substances before and/or during pregnancy to test for poisonous effects, upon the animal's ability to reproduce, as well as damage to the fetus or its development.

The tide is turning; a 2015 Gallup poll revealed more than two-thirds of Americans are concerned about animals suffering in research. A 2015 Nielson poll found most consumers considered the "not tested on animals" moniker to be the most important packaging claim; 43% were willing to pay more for such products. At least 140 personal care products companies have endorsed the *Humane Cosmetics Act*, a federal bill similar to SB282/ HB611. The EU Parliament has called for a worldwide ban on animal testing for cosmetics. The *US Food & Drug Administration* announced its collaboration – the *Non-Animal Cosmetic Safety Assessment Globally* - formed among stakeholder groups with the goal of globally implementing non-animal cosmetic safety assessment by 2023.

As it stands, cosmetics companies must meet cruelty-free requirements for 1.5 billion consumers in the global marketplace. Hundreds of cruelty-free cosmetic companies now thrive in North America, and the market increasingly demands humane products.

We urge you to support SB282/ HB611 ~ it's time to end cruel and unnecessary animal testing for cosmetics.

Respectfully,

Christina Scaringe, General Counsel
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