

SHANEKA HENSON  
Legislative District 30  
Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**SB0656 – Public Health – Cosmetic Products  
Enforcement and Penalties for Prohibited Ingredients (Crown and Care Act)**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and committee members.

For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County and member of the JPR Committee.

I am here today to urge a favorable report on Senate Bill SB0656 – Public Health – Cosmetic Products – Enforcement and Penalties for Prohibited Ingredients (Crown and Care Act)

The intent of this legislation is to protect women from harmful chemicals produce in numerous hair products and ensure real accountability for consumer safety.

In 2025, Maryland took a major step by banning several dangerous chemicals in cosmetic products, including formaldehyde, phthalates, parabens, mercury, and PFAS. However, these toxic products remain on store shelves due to limited enforcement and accountability.

The Crown & Care Act closes this enforcement gap by strengthening the Attorney General’s authority to investigate violations, pursue civil penalties and restitution, and ensures that consumers harmed by illegal products have meaningful legal remedies.

A vital component in the legislation is establishing a restitution and research fund to support medical screening, treatment, and research related to fibroids, uterine cancer, hair loss, and other related conditions disproportionately affecting Black women.

This legislation is supported by a broad and growing coalition of public health advocates, medical professionals, consumer protection leaders, and community organizations committed to advancing health equity and consumer safety. In fact, many of these chemicals are already banned or restricted in the European Union yet remain widely available in US products.

Your support and vote to approve this bill would bring powerful visibility to this effort and help ensure meaningful protection for future generations. After hearing the testimony from our experts and others, we urge a favorable vote of the committee.