



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

**March 31, 2026**

## **House Health Committee**

### **Senate Bill 656 - Public Health – Cosmetic Products – Enforcement and Penalties for Prohibited Ingredients (Crown and Care Act – Protecting Communities from Harmful Hair Chemicals)**

#### **Position: SUPPORT**

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 656, which strengthens enforcement related to cosmetic products containing prohibited harmful ingredients and provides additional accountability measures to protect consumers.

Senate Bill 656 builds upon existing State law that restricts the manufacture, sale, and distribution of cosmetic products containing certain toxic substances by establishing clear enforcement mechanisms, including civil liability for violations and investigative authority for the Maryland Department of Health. These provisions help ensure that consumer protections already enacted by the State are meaningful and enforceable in practice.

From a local government perspective, protecting residents from exposure to harmful chemicals is an important public health priority. Communities across Prince George's County include many individuals who regularly use personal care and cosmetic products, and stronger enforcement of safety standards can help reduce preventable health risks. Policies that promote safer consumer products also contribute to long-term public health outcomes and reduce potential burdens on local health systems.

The bill also advances health equity considerations. Research has shown that certain hair and cosmetic products containing hazardous chemicals are disproportionately marketed to and used by communities of color. Strengthening enforcement and accountability helps ensure that all residents — regardless of race, ethnicity, or income — receive the same level of consumer protection and product safety.

Importantly, Senate Bill 656 provides a balanced approach by reinforcing existing standards rather than creating entirely new regulatory structures. By clarifying enforcement authority and remedies, the legislation promotes compliance while supporting public confidence in product safety protections.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 656.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council*

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