



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Testimony in Support of LD 1551
An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
April 27, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

My name is Katie Hansberry and I am the Maine State Director of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). On behalf of HSUS and our Maine supporters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony sharing our strong support of LD 1551. I also want to thank Representative Doudera for sponsoring the bill and all the co-sponsors for their support.

This legislation prohibits the sale in Maine of any cosmetic for which a new animal test was conducted or contracted by, or on behalf of, the manufacturer, or any supplier of the manufacturer. LD 1551 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.

There is strong corporate support for ending cosmetics animal testing. LD 1551 has received letters of support from cosmetics manufacturers and retailers in Maine including SaltyGirl Beauty, One Earth Natural Food Store and Lush.

Additionally, 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 90% of the U.S. cosmetics industry, 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, 335 individual companies endorsed this federal effort. This corporate support either obtained through their membership with PCPC or their individual endorsement includes 7 companies headquartered in Maine: SaltyGirl Beauty (Kennebunk), One Earth Natural Food Store (Shapleigh), Lotus Garden Botanicals (Biddeford), Maine Hempworks (Naples), True North Beauty (Milo), First Impact New York (New Gloucester) and Greentech USA, Inc. (Yarmouth). LD 1551 was drafted to mirror provisions found in this federal legislation.

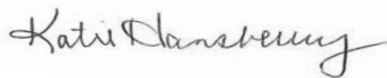
Animal testing is cruel and not a reliable predictor of human responses. In traditional animal tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and rats have substances forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes, or smeared onto their skin before they are killed. These test methods are unreliable predictors 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.

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. Last month, Virginia became the fourth state in the country to prohibit the sale of animal-tested cosmetics. Similar bills are on the governor's desk in Maryland and are also being considered and making progress in Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. 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. Forty countries have now passed laws to end or limit cosmetic animal testing including the member states of the EU, Australia, Colombia, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Maine is consistently a leader on many animal welfare issues and in keeping with this proud tradition and to stay competitive and innovate, we ask you to vote ought to pass on LD 1551 and make Maine the next state to address the unnecessary cruelty of cosmetics animal testing. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and I am happy to answer any questions.



Katie Hansberry
Maine State Director
khansberry@humanesociety.org
207-999-2323