

Kate Harris
Blue Hill

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Attn: In support of LD 1551 to end the sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals.

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the IDEA Committee, I urge your support of LD 1551; An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals. This is a cruel, antiquated practice that is not supported by science. It is cruel both to the animals being unnecessarily subjected to the torturous testing and to the humans conducting the testing. I had a cousin whose work involved animal testing. She developed schizophrenia and died prematurely, I believe due to her horrific work environment. She was haunted by what she had done. This testing does not ensure consumer safety and more reliable alternative testing methods exist. Over 40 countries around the world have passed laws to end or limit the use of animal testing in cosmetics development. In this country, four states have passed laws and six more are currently considering legislation targeting the sale and/or manufacture of cosmetics that rely on animal testing. In Maryland, their legislation is awaiting the Governors signature, and Hawaii is poised to pass as well. Nothing would make me prouder than to add Maine to this list. In closing, please consider the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Let's include Maine in the growing list of states in our nation who are taking the moral high ground on this issue. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your service to the people of Maine.