



525 East Cotati Avenue  
Cotati, California 94931

T 707.795.2533  
F 707.795.7280

info@aldf.org  
aldf.org

April 27, 2021

Senator Chip Curry, Chair  
Representative Tiffany Roberts, Chair  
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business  
Cross Building, Room 202  
100 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: Support for *An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals* (LD 1551)**

Chair Curry, Chair Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and our supporters in Maine, thank you for this opportunity to support *An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals* (LD 1551), which would prohibit cosmetics manufacturers in Maine from selling cosmetics manufactured using animal testing after the effective date.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) is the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals. Our mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. As a core component of that mission, we advocate for stronger legal protections for animals used in research as well as alternatives to animal testing.

We thank Representative Victoria Doudera for filing this important legislation as well as Senators Brenner and Carney and Representatives Grohoski, Hepler, Meyer, O'Connor, and Pebworth for their co-sponsorship. We are grateful to the Maine State Legislature for your ongoing commitment to animal protection. Our annual state ranking ([aldf.org/staterankings](http://aldf.org/staterankings)), released this year, recognizes Maine as first in the nation for its animal protection laws.

**We strongly support LD 1551, which would simply require cosmetic manufacturers and their contract testing facilities to halt the use of animal testing for new cosmetic products and ingredients.** More than thirty countries as well as California, Illinois, Nevada, and Virginia have passed laws regarding animal testing for cosmetics.

Commonsense exemptions are built into this legislation, including for cosmetics already on store shelves and in certain situations when animal testing required by federal or state regulatory agencies.

**All our clients are innocent**

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Alternatives to animal testing are available and many provide information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance for the intended purpose.

Experts also recognize the need for more change. In 2007, the National Research Council — an organization that puts out reports and policy recommendations for The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine — issued a report on toxicity testing that recommended a move away from the use of animals in laboratory experiments.<sup>1</sup>

Maine, known as a leader in animal protection, has the opportunity to encourage the application of the best available science to protect human health and the transition away from outdated animal testing for cosmetics.

ALDF requests a favorable report on *An Act To Ban the Sale of Cosmetics That Have Been Tested on Animals* (LD 1551) to benefit animals and humans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Harris

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Stephanie J. Harris | Senior Legislative Affairs Manager  
Animal Legal Defense Fund | [aldf.org](http://aldf.org)  
[sharris@aldf.org](mailto:sharris@aldf.org) | 617-955-7500



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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11970](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11970)