

Susanna Richer
Portland, ME

April 27, 2021

Honorable members of the IDEA committee,
Thank you for considering my comments in strong support of L.D. 1551.

With the technology that exists today, there is absolutely no reason to continue the abusive practice of testing on animals, as part of cosmetics development or for any other reason. It is not enough to ask citizens to make humane choices when purchasing cosmetic products, we, as a society, need to take a stronger stand against intentional and unnecessary animal abuse by both individuals and corporations.

A good friend of mine worked on a crew hired to install new flooring at a facility in Massachusetts that conducted testing on dogs (Beagles). There were well over 500 dogs on site. He was required to sign a non-disclosure agreement before entering the facility. Additionally, the company hired security guards to observe the workers while working on the floors that housed the Beagles.

My friend is not an animal advocate, but he does have a soft spot for dogs. He could not complete the job. He quit before the flooring was completed. He was so upset by the way these dogs were kept and treated – all he could talk about for weeks after (in violation of the NDA) were ideas on how to rescue the dogs in the laboratory from their current “lives.”

The worst part is -- after a life of living in a small cage with little out time, no socialization, being poked, injected, prodded, burned with chemicals, operated on, forced to ingest potentially toxic substances, most of these animals are killed. What a waste of life. Animal testing is long term torture that is not even necessary to produce safe products.

Voting “ought to pass” on L.D. 1551 will send a message to corporations that refuse to voluntarily advance their product development processes away from outdated and unnecessary animal testing practices and towards the humane options available - options that that concerned citizens want and demand.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Susanna Richer
Portland, ME