March 24, 2020

The Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2762 - Muratsuchi - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wood:

We are writing in support of AB 495, the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi, Bill Quirk, and Buffy Wicks.

This important bill will explicitly prohibit the sale of beauty and personal care products in California containing 12 extremely toxic chemicals including mercury, formaldehyde, parabens, phthalates and 13 per- or polyfluoroalkyl compounds (PFAS chemicals).

Today, personal care and beauty products (generally termed cosmetics) that are sold in California and the United States are largely unregulated. Manufacturers can use practically any chemical to formulate a cosmetic product, including chemicals with well-established links to cancer, reproductive harm or birth defects. Equally troubling, neither federal nor state laws require premarket testing by cosmetic manufacturers or their regulatory agencies to ensure that these products are safe before they hit store shelves.

Out of the more than 10,000 chemicals used to formulate beauty and personal care products, the United States Food and Drug Administration has only ever banned or restricted 11. In contrast, the European Union prohibits or restricts the use of nearly 1,400 chemicals in cosmetics, and many other countries tightly regulate cosmetics sold to their citizens. Even major retailers have recognized the problem and have developed their own lists of hazardous chemicals prohibited from use in their own beauty brands, and have recommended that these chemicals be removed from brands they sell in stores.

Californians, unfortunately, remain unprotected. According to the California Safe Cosmetics Program, at least 88 different carcinogens and reproductive toxicants are intentionally added to cosmetics sold in California today. Additionally, numerous tests have confirmed that lead and asbestos frequently contaminate certain cosmetics. And labels indicate that well-known hormone disruptors, and even highly fluorinated substances (PFAS) are commonly found in cosmetics.

As you know, men, women, and children of all ages regularly use personal care products and beauty products. In fact, young women – women of child-bearing age – often use up to 16 products each day, and studies have shown that human bodies absorb the products’ chemicals.
Californians need and deserve the same protections from harmful cosmetics provided to people that shop for the exact same products in the European Union and numerous other countries. Please support AB 2762 when it comes before your committee.

Thank you.

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