April 6, 2017

Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Attn: Liza Chu
State Capitol, Rm 5160, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Sent via email:  Liza.Chu@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 1575 (Kalra)—SUPPORT – PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPARENCY

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), we strongly support AB 1575. The bill will require manufacturers to list ingredients on the labels of professional cosmetics and make information on the potential health effects of ingredients more accessible. In addition, the bill will increase penalties for failure to comply with the law and provide for state agencies to recoup the cost when pursuing actions against violators.

CPSC is a non-profit organization which formed in 2006 and is comprised of local governments and their associations, businesses, the general public and other entities, that works with product manufacturers and partners with them to encourage a producer responsibility approach to product management. In this policy approach, it is critical that producers of products are transparent of what is in products so they can be safely managed.

On a daily basis, for long hours, 129,000 licensed manicurists in California handle solvents, glues, polishes, straighteners, and other beauty care products containing a multitude of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, allergies, respiratory, neurological and reproductive harm. Salon workers absorb chemicals through their skin and breathe them in as fumes build up in the air of the salon over the course of the workday.

Products marketed to and used by beauty professionals, many of whom are women of color, are unlabeled, under-regulated, and often unhealthy. Currently, manufacturers must list ingredients on the labels of cosmetics sold at the retail level (like a Target or Walgreen’s store)—this is good for the people who sell, buy, and use those products. In contrast, chemical ingredients in professional cosmetics do not have to be listed on product labels.

Beauty professionals in the state have the right to know what chemicals they are being exposed to. Thank you for authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director