



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

March 12, 2024

Rhode Island House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in Support of H 7886

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Rhode Island members and supporters urging the committee to amend and pass H 7886. This legislation prohibits the sale in Rhode Island of any cosmetic for which a new animal test was conducted or contracted by, or on behalf of, the manufacturer, or any supplier of the manufacturer. H 7886 does contain limited exceptions that allow for animal testing under certain conditions including testing done to satisfy regulatory requirements and to address specific and serious human health concerns.

HSUS also encourages the committee to consider an amendment (attached after this letter) to provide further clarity about when a cosmetics manufacturer must search for a non-animal alternative test method before using new animal data to substantiate the safety of an ingredient tested for non-cosmetic purposes.

There is strong corporate support for ending cosmetics animal testing. Federal legislators are currently considering the Humane Cosmetics Act, bipartisan legislation to end the production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics. The HSUS, Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Personal Care Products Council joined together to support this legislation in an unprecedented agreement to bring about an end to cosmetic animal testing in the United States. In addition to PCPC, which represents approximately 600 member companies, 401 individual companies have also endorsed this federal effort. The language of H 7886 closely mirrors the provisions in this federal legislation.

Animal testing is cruel and not a reliable predictor of human responses. In traditional animal tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and rats have substances forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes, or smeared onto their skin before they are killed. These test methods are unreliable predictors of human safety. Different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals. Consequently, animal tests may under- or over-estimate real-world hazards to people. In addition, results from animal tests can be quite variable and difficult to interpret.

Animal testing for cosmetics is completely unnecessary. There are no animal testing requirements for cosmetic safety substantiation in the United States. Companies can already create great products using thousands of available ingredients that have a history of safe use and do not require new testing. For new ingredients where animal testing may currently be used, many non-animal methods have been, and continue to be, developed. Non-animal methods can combine human cell-based tests and sophisticated computer models to deliver human-relevant results at less cost and in less time than traditional animal tests.

There has been a global trend toward eliminating cosmetic animal testing. There are currently 11 states in the country that have passed laws to ban the sale of cosmetics that have been newly tested on animals (California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Virginia). A similar bill is on the governor's desk in Washington. Historically, the European Union (EU) began the trend in 2013 by finalizing a ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, creating the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetics marketplace. This ban compelled cosmetic companies around the world to end animal testing and invest in the development of non-animal methods instead. 45 countries have now passed laws to end or limit cosmetic animal testing including the member states of the EU, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

The HSUS strongly supports H 7886 and urges the committee to quickly pass this legislation to make Rhode Island the next state to address the unnecessary cruelty of cosmetics animal testing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki Katrinak".

Vicki Katrinak
Director, Animal Research and Testing



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Suggested amendments to H 7886

(d)(2)(iv) Such testing is conducted for a cosmetic ingredient intended to be used in a product that is not a cosmetic product and conducted pursuant to a requirement of a federal, state, or foreign regulatory authority as long as no evidence derived from animal testing conducted after the effective date of this subsection is relied upon to substantiate the safety of a cosmetic sold in the state by a manufacturer, unless all of the following apply:

~~(A) There is no non-animal alternative method or strategy recognized by any federal or state agency or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for the relevant safety endpoints for such ingredient;~~

~~(B)~~ There is documented evidence of the non-cosmetic intent of the test; ~~and~~

~~(C)~~ (B) There is a history of use of the ingredient outside of cosmetics at least one year prior to the manufacturer's reliance on such data; and

(C) The manufacturer has determined the need to rely on such data because there is no non-animal alternative method or strategy recognized by any Federal agency, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for the relevant safety endpoints for such ingredient or non-functional constituent.