



March 13, 2025

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chairwoman
Committee on Health and Human Services
House of Representatives
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Letter of Opposition - House Bill 5617 The Personal Hygiene Product Safety and Toxic Metal Removal Act of 2025

Dear Chairwoman Donovan:

On behalf of the members of the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC)¹, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 5617. This bill **puts Rhode Island scientifically out of step with the federal government and countries around the world in its attempt to restrict certain substances.**

Cosmetics and personal care products companies work with leading scientific and medical experts and invest significant resources to ensure the safety of their products. In addition to this strong commitment to safety, federal law requires that every cosmetics product be substantiated for safety before it goes to market. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) statistics confirm that cosmetics are one of the safest product categories used by Americans today.

HB 5617 abandons state, federal, and international regulatory precedent by setting unachievable standards for heavy metals. Lead, arsenic and cadmium are never intentionally added and only present at trace levels if ingredients are mined from the earth or contain water in the formulation, as these are naturally occurring heavy metals that are ubiquitous in the environment, including soil, air, and water.

¹ Founded in 1894, the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) is the voice and advocate for 600 member companies representing the global cosmetics and personal care products industry. PCPC's members represent approximately 90% of the U.S. beauty industry and are some of the most beloved and trusted brands in beauty and personal care today. As the manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of a diverse range of products millions of consumers rely on every day – from sunscreens, toothpaste and shampoo to moisturizer, makeup and fragrance – PCPC's member companies are global leaders committed to product safety, quality and innovation.

Passing HB 5617 would establish an unrealistic and unreasonable requirement for personal care product development and production and create a tougher standard for cosmetics than the food and water we consume. The consequences of this legislation will lead to little or no consumer choice. We kindly urge you to oppose HB 5617. Please reach out to me or PCPC's in-state counsel, Leonard Lopes of Victor Group LLC, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katie B. Wright /s/

Katie B. Wright

Vice President, State Government Affairs