



**Humane  
World for  
Animals**

Formerly called the Humane Society  
of the United States

March 10, 2025

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

**Re: Testimony in Support of H. 5865**

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

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of Humane World for Animals (formerly known as the Humane Society of the United States) and our Rhode Island members and supporters urging the committee to amend and pass H. 5865. 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. 5865 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.

Humane World 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. Humane World for Animals, Humane World Action 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, 402 individual companies have also endorsed this federal effort. The language of H. 5865 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 12 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, Virginia and 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. Forty-five (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.

Humane World for Animals strongly supports H. 5865 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,



Joanne Bourbeau  
Northeastern Regional Director



Michelle Shaw  
Program Manager, Animal Research Issues