

Testimony in Support of SB 546

TO: Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and, members of the Committee

FR: Alyssa Rueda

DT: February 28, 2023

RE: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Toxic-Free Cosmetics SB 546

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and, members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB 546. I am a resident of Eugene, Oregon and I have two sisters who live in Eugene as well. As they get older, it has become very common for them to ask for cosmetics as gifts. I used to convince myself that the products marketed towards kids on tv and in stores were safe to use. I hoped that the products would be safer for their skin than the products that adults use. However I knew that I could not know for sure because the products do not have a list of ingredients. SB 546 will require the public disclosure of all chemical ingredients on a company's product webpage. Doing so is an accessible way for consumers, such as myself and my family members, to make educated purchasing decisions. Additionally, it will ban the sale of the worst chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products like many other states have.

I was shocked and horrified to find out that formaldehyde is used in many cosmetics as a preservative. I have used formaldehyde to preserve dead specimens in science classes and every time, they tell us to be extremely cautious not to get it on our skin because it has been linked to cancers. We are given gloves, protective clothing and safety goggles before using formaldehyde. Why is it used in products applied to the skin? More importantly, why is this allowed? This chemical is only one of many that are highly dangerous and should not be used in cosmetics that women, children and people use daily. SB 546 would regulate or prohibit the sale of the worst classes of chemicals in personal care products like formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers, mercury, and lead. These chemicals are a threat to pregnant women and unborn

children, because the chemicals can be absorbed into the skin and into the unborn fetus in utero and can cause developmental harm. Deadly ingredients like formaldehyde in hair straighteners and mercury in skin lighteners illustrate both economic and environmental injustices. These ingredients are in cheaper products marketed to lower-income communities, and these ingredients are in products marketed towards women of color.

Everyone must be safe from toxic chemicals found in cosmetic. Not just those who can afford to spend more and buy products without the toxic chemicals that should already be banned and regulated in the first place. We must join the 7 states that are considering cosmetics bills this session and the 6 that have already passed some cosmetics safety laws.

Thank you for your time and I strongly encourage the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment to pass SB 546 to protect adults and children from toxic chemicals in cosmetics.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Rueda