

Support the Safe Cosmetics & Personal Care Products Act of 2019

A new bill introduced by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (Democrat-IL) has the power to transform the U.S. beauty and personal care products industry. The Safe Cosmetics and Personal Care Products Act of 2019 is the only federal bill that holds cosmetic companies accountable for the safety of the ingredients in their products; requires supply chain transparency and industry sharing of safety data to help level the playing field for small, clean cosmetic companies; closes the federal labeling loophole that allows secret—often toxic fragrance chemicals—to hide in cosmetic products; bans most animal testing; and tackles the over-exposure to toxic chemicals experienced by communities of color and professional salon workers.

The average American uses roughly 12 personal care products a day, resulting in exposure to an average of 168 unique chemicals. These chemical exposures have been linked to cancer, infertility, miscarriage, poor infant and maternal health outcomes, obesity, asthma, and many other serious health concerns.

Most people assume the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates cosmetics and personal care products the same way it does food and drugs to ensure that these products are safe. But that is NOT the case. The federal law that governs this \$84 billion domestic cosmetics industry is only 2.5 pages long and has not been updated in 81 years. This very same cosmetics industry uses roughly 10,000 industrial chemical ingredients in personal care products, and the vast majority have never been assessed for safety by any publicly accountable body. Toxic cosmetic ingredients end up inside our bodies, our breast milk, and our babies. Those chemicals also go down the drain and pollute our waterways and drinking water, adding to our daily dose of hazardous chemicals from air, water, food and other consumer products.

Due to an antiquated federal law, it is perfectly legal for cosmetics companies to use ingredients with known hazards to human health and the environment without FDA pre-market safety testing or review. Equally worrisome is the fact that the most toxic fragrance and flavor chemicals don't even appear on product labels. This adds up to hazardous daily chemical exposure for babies, pregnant women, communities of color, and other highly exposed, vulnerable populations.

The legal definition of cosmetics includes “articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body...for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance.” This covers more products than what Americans might typically think of as ‘cosmetics.’

In response to growing public concern about unsafe chemicals in our cosmetics and personal care products, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) introduced legislation that will overhaul the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act—the law governing the FDA Office of Cosmetics and Colors—to ensure

that cosmetics are safe for ALL, including infants, children, pregnant women, beauty workers, highly exposed populations, and other vulnerable populations.

Contact your Congressional Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support the Safe Cosmetics & Personal Care Products Act of 2019!

Rep. Schakowsky's Safe Cosmetics and Personal Care Products Act of 2019 requires:

- An immediate ban on over a dozen of the most toxic chemicals in cosmetics including:
 - Benzophenones; BHA and BHT; Coal tar dyes; Cocamide DEA; DBP and DEHP phthalates; Toluene; Styrene or Styrene acrylates; Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde-releasing preservatives; Triclosan; Lead acetate or other lead compounds; and Parabens.
- Disclosure of toxic fragrance ingredients—including allergens—on cosmetics labels and all fragrance ingredients on manufacturer websites.
- Full ingredient disclosure for professional salon products and for cosmetics sold by internet vendors, including the constituent ingredients of fragrance.
- The creation of a safety standard for cosmetic ingredients based on a reasonable certainty of no harm that protects vulnerable populations including infants, children, pregnant women, workers and other highly exposed populations.
- Pre-market safety assessment of all new cosmetic ingredients and compilation of safety data on existing cosmetic ingredients.
- FDA safety assessment of a minimum of 30 ingredients within the first two years of bill enactment, increasing the number by an additional 10 cosmetic chemicals annually thereafter.
- Creation of a grants program to support research and design of safer alternatives to toxic chemicals that are disproportionately affecting salon workers or communities of color.
- A ban on the use of animal testing for the finished cosmetic product and for any ingredient that has an Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) validated non-animal testing alternative.
- Mandatory facility registration and good manufacturing practices.
- FDA notification, non-distribution, and recall of adulterated or misbranded cosmetics.
- Public access to serious adverse event reports.
- A prohibition on confidential business information (CBI) claims for ingredient data related to human health hazard, environmental toxicity, exposure, function, fragrance, flavors, colorants and contaminants in cosmetics.
- Creation of an Interagency Council on Cosmetics Safety to share ingredient safety data between FDA, NIEHS, OSHA, CDC and EPA.

- The creation of a savings clause that protects the rights of the states to legislate on cosmetic safety.
- A sliding scale fee-mechanism to generate adequate funding to ensure the FDA has the support it needs to provide effective oversight of the cosmetics industry.
- Special considerations and technical support for small businesses to help level the playing field.

To learn more, please contact Breast Cancer Prevention Partners c/o Janet Nudelman, 415-321-2902 or Janet@BCPP.org.