



BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS
ACTION PROJECT



Know your environment.
Protect your health.

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2762 (Muratsuchi) – As introduced on February 20, 2020

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi:

We are writing as bill sponsors of AB 2762, the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, to thank you for your diligent efforts to prevent harmful chemicals from being added to personal care products sold in California.

Given the devastation being caused by Covid-19, protecting the health of Californians by eliminating preventable exposures to chemicals that can compromise our health, and thus make us more vulnerable to the Corona Virus, should be a top priority.

AB 2762 is a common-sense bill that would ban 12 of the most toxic chemicals from cosmetic products sold in California. Scientific research has indisputably demonstrated that these chemicals cause harm, and the chemicals' detrimental effects include cancer, birth defects, damage to the reproductive system, hormone disruption and developmental harm. These are also substances that have been banned by the European Union, but are present in cosmetics sold in the United States -- a double standard that AB 2762 seeks to end.

Unlike many other countries around the world, personal care and cosmetics products sold in California and the United States today are largely unregulated. Federal and state laws do not require regulators to ensure that these products are safe, and manufacturers do not have to share any safety information with government entities. As the federal Food and Drug Administration stated in a March 5, 2019 press release, *"Right now, when it comes to cosmetics, companies and individuals who market these products in the U.S. hold the responsibility for the safety and labeling of their products...To be clear, there are currently no legal requirements for any cosmetic manufacturer marketing products to American consumers to test their products for safety."*

As a result, Californians remain unprotected from toxic chemicals in cosmetics, and these chemicals can cause long term damage to our health, and the health of our families. According to the California Safe Cosmetics Program, at least 88 different carcinogens and reproductive toxicants are intentionally added to cosmetics sold in California today. Furthermore, almost all of the chemicals that would be prohibited

from cosmetics by AB 2762 either directly or indirectly compromise the immune system, and as a result, make Californians more vulnerable to COVID-19. For example:

- Highly fluorinated substances, also known as PFAS, are linked to cancer, suppressed immune function, lower vaccine effectiveness, and autoimmune diseases. PFAS have been found in sunscreen, foundation, concealer, eyeliner, shaving cream and hairspray.
- Formaldehyde and substances containing formaldehyde – methylene glycol and paraformaldehyde – are linked to cancer, immune diseases and respiratory illnesses. Nevertheless, formaldehyde is often added to hair and nail products.
- Mercury is highly toxic and damages the nervous system. Mercury can also harm the digestive and immune functions, lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal. The inorganic salts of mercury are corrosive to the skin, eyes and gastrointestinal tract, and may induce kidney toxicity if ingested. Mercury, however, is still used as a preservative in eye make-up and is sometimes illicitly added to skin lightening creams.
- Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and Diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) are linked to reproductive toxicity and immune system dysfunction, and yet are often added to products such as nail polish and eyelash adhesives.
- Isopropyl and Isobutyl parabens can disrupt hormones, harm fertility and reproductive organs, affect birth outcomes, and increase the risk of cancer. These chemicals are also linked to immune system dysfunction, asthma, and can cause skin irritation. Isopropyl and Isobutyl paraben are used as preservatives in some cosmetic products that have high water content, such as skin lotions and cleansers, hair gels and treatments, sunscreen, lip balm, and eye liner and other make-up products.

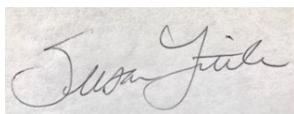
Californians need and deserve, at a minimum, the same protections from harmful cosmetics as those provided to citizens of the European Union. Thank you for bringing our state closer to this goal by authoring and championing AB 2762.

We look forward to working with you and the other bill authors to secure passage of this important law.

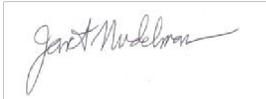
Sincerely,



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