

**Statement regarding, H.R. 6207, the Humane Cosmetics Act  
to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Subcommittee on Health Hearing on  
The Future Of Medicine: Legislation To Encourage Innovation And Improve Oversight  
March 17, 2022**

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund, we are thankful the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee is hearing a number of bills related to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today. And we'd like to highlight another bill, which will facilitate moving away from outdated methods of animal testing toward more humane and human-relevant new approach methodologies. With 153 bipartisan cosponsors we urge the subcommittee, and the broader Energy and Commerce committee, to consider including H.R. 6207, the Humane Cosmetics Act, in any moving legislative packages. The Humane Cosmetics Act ends new animal testing for cosmetics, but gives FDA the discretion to require new testing if absolutely necessary.

There has been a global trend toward eliminating cosmetic animal testing. Since 2018, eight states have passed laws to prohibit the sale of animal-tested cosmetics (California, Nevada, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, Maine, Hawaii, and New Jersey). Forty-one countries have now passed laws to end or limit cosmetic animal testing including the member states of the EU, Australia, Colombia, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Passage of the Humane Cosmetics Act will align U.S. cosmetics policy across the states and around the globe.

The Humane Cosmetics Act also has broad support from the American public and U.S. cosmetics industry. This legislation was developed in consultation with and is endorsed by the leading national cosmetics trade association, the Personal Care Products Council (endorsement letter included with this statement). PCPC represents 90% of the U.S. cosmetics industry, approximately 600 companies. In addition to support from the trade association, [371 companies](#) have individually endorsed the Humane Cosmetics Act including Unilever, Procter & Gamble, The Body Shop, Lush, and Walgreens.

These companies want to meet the vast consumer demand for cruelty-free products, as polling shows 73% of American voters favor national legislation to phase out the use of animal experiments to test cosmetics<sup>1</sup> and 57% of respondents said that the most important cosmetics packaging claim was "not tested on animals." Finally, the legislation will make U.S. cosmetics companies more competitive globally by allowing their products to be sold in the many countries and states where sale of cosmetics that were tested with animal experiments are banned.

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<sup>1</sup> 2013 public opinion poll conducted by Lake Research Partners, commissioned by the HSUS and HSLF.

The Humane Cosmetics Act will: 1) prohibit new animal testing of cosmetics and their components; and 2) prohibit the sale in the United States of cosmetics that have undergone cosmetic animal testing one year after the date of enactment of the bill. It has been carefully drafted to address the realities of a global cosmetics marketplace, while also encouraging cosmetics companies to continue their work to replace animal tests with modern, human-relevant science. To that end, it provides some limited exemptions that may allow for new animal testing including: 1) for ingredients or products considered to be drugs by the FDA; 2) when a cosmetic ingredient poses a specific and serious human health risk; 3) when an animal test is required for an ingredient that is also used in a non-cosmetic product; and 4) to comply with foreign regulatory requirements so long as new animal data is not used to substantiate the safety of the cosmetic in the United States.

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.

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.

We thank you for considering including the Humane Cosmetics Act in any FDA vehicle and welcome the opportunity to answer any follow up questions the Committee may have or provide additional materials. Please contact Elizabeth Smith at [elsmith@hslf.org](mailto:elsmith@hslf.org) for more information.