

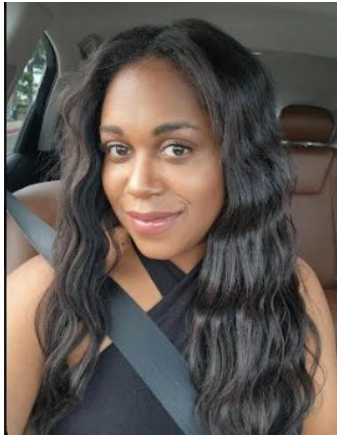
Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Findley, and members of the committee –

My name is Amira Streeter and I'm providing my testimony as a resident of Oregon, a policy expert with a JD, a Black American woman, and an avid consumer of beauty products.

I love cosmetics. I have worked in the cosmetic industry. Through my own passion, interests, and countless hours of trial and error, I know a lot about cosmetics. I'm one of those customers that reads the ingredients; having an interest in science and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, I have some knowledge of what to avoid and what is fine to apply to my skin, hair, etc.

About 6 months ago, what I thought I knew didn't protect me from a severe allergic reaction to hair dye. I chose a product that marketed itself as free of harmful chemicals, but that marketing was a lie.

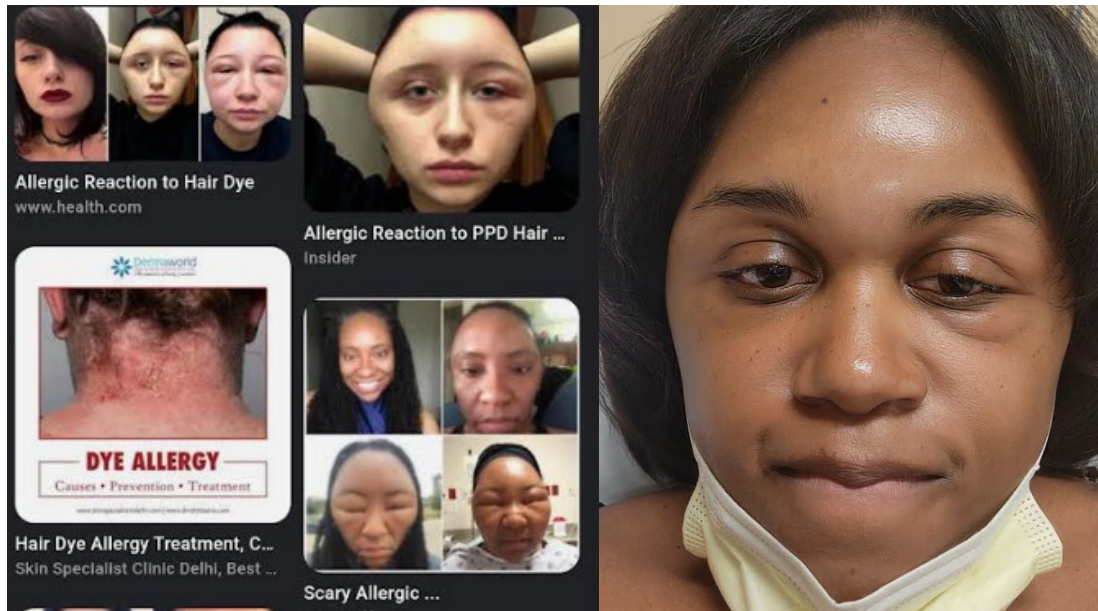
In mere hours, my face went from this:



to this:



I spent several hours in the ER, trying to explain to doctors what happened and had to receive a steroid IV to get the swelling down before my throat closed. I could have died.



Realizing that it must have been the hair dye from a process of elimination, I spent a good deal of time researching the ingredients to painstakingly decipher what could have caused the reaction, but to no real conclusion.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) released a study examining beauty and hair merchandise specifically targeted to Black women. The products researched were marketed to Black women were hair relaxers (which contain formaldehyde releasing chemicals), bleaching products, and hair colors. The study showed that out of 12 hair dyes marketed to Black women, every product had ingredients of concern that made them unsafe --: undisclosed “fragrance” mixtures; resorcinol, a hormone disruptor and sensitizing chemical that can trigger allergic reactions; and p-phenylenediamine, which has been [recently banned by the EU](#). (Link to article [Big Market for Black Cosmetics, but Less-Hazardous Choices Limited | EWG](#)).

Research shows that women of color are exposed to higher levels of toxic chemicals related to beauty products, and this is linked to higher incidences of bad health outcomes. Reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in beauty and personal care products will help address a critical environmental justice issue.

Some of you may be saying, “Well that was dumb, just stop using the product.” And that’s exactly what I would like to do. I will never touch hair dye ever again. But what about the other products? What about the other people who don’t have my background to investigate this, or worse, what about the people who don’t make it to the hospital in time?

As a woman and a Black person, I am the type of customer these cosmetic companies target. Every year the cosmetic industry is thinking about how to play on women’s insecurities, societal norms and expectations, and market trends to sell a product full of harmful chemicals.

Just this month, a multimillion dollar company that offers cosmetics at a very affordable price, Morphe Cosmetics, child company of Forma Brands was named in a class-action lawsuit for their products containing inherently dangerous color additives that are considered unsuitable

and unapproved for cosmetic use around the eyes: [Morphe Class Action Stalls Following Bankruptcy](#). Following Morphe's filing for bankruptcy, this lawsuit is stalled. Some of these products have been used by me and live in my house. (NOTE: These are color additives – not the more hazardous chemicals listed in this bill)

Companies can do better by:

1. Improving transparency and disclose all product ingredients
2. Eliminate chemicals of concern
3. Provide safer products

I don't think these companies are purposely poisoning people, but they are knowingly including harmful chemicals in their products and should prioritize health over profits. Walmart, Target, and Rite Aid have already asked companies to make changes.

This bill will help put the power of knowledge in the hands of the people and hold these billion dollar companies accountable.

Thank you.

Amira Streeter, J.D.