

Support for SB 546 The Toxic Free Cosmetics Act

February 24, 2023

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of Senate Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault and I am writing in support of SB 546.

When most people see/hear the words “beauty products” two things come to mind, safe and clean. With self-care being a relatively new term, people are striving to take better care of themselves. Self care by definition is: The practice of taking action to preserve or improve one’s health.

Now more than ever, people are looking for alternatives to the beauty products “our mothers used.” We are focusing on what is *in* the product, as well as searching for that little white bunny stating that the product is “*cruelty free.*”

As a former cosmetologist, it would have been beneficial for me to have known what *exactly* I was exposing myself and my clients to while performing their services. My clients expected me to be able to fulfill their beauty needs, and use the safest products during their visits. I did my best to meet those expectations, but fell short of my promise that *all* the products I used were as safe as possible.

I would also like to mention that a lot of people can’t afford the expensive “cleaner” options for cosmetic care. This leaves people who are at a financial disadvantage no choice other than to purchase the items that they *can* afford. Many of these products are full of the cheapest, most harmful “usable” ingredients, with no disclosure of the possible adverse health effects provided on the merchandise.

I fully support SB 546. As a licensed cosmetologist, by law, it is my responsibility to uphold Oregon's rules and regulations in order to maintain my license. This bill will initiate transparency between the products being sold and full disclosure of what harmful ingredients could be in those products. Had SB 546 been a requirement 13 years ago, when I started practicing, I would have been able to confidently say that I was using the safest products. This bill would have aided me in meeting the standards of my license, as well as my morals as a human being.

I urge you to support SB 546 for the betterment and safety of the people trustingly buying products that they assume won’t harm them.

Sincerely,

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault