



February 28, 2023

To: Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and Committee Members

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for SB 546

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 546. For the record, my name is Emerson Hamlin, and I am a political organizer for the Oregon Nurses Association. ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

ONA is supportive of SB 546 because toxic chemicals cause life-altering health consequences. Since California passed the California Safe Cosmetics Act in 2005, 595 cosmetics manufacturers have reported using 88 chemicals that are linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive issues.¹ One common example includes per- and polyfluorinated substances, or PFAS, which are linked to thyroid disease, liver damage, cancer, hormone disruption, and decreased fertility. PFAS is an ingredient in 82% of waterproof mascaras, and 62% of liquid lipsticks.² Other examples include formaldehyde, lead, and mercury; substances that are widely recognized as harmful to human health and regulated in other uses but remain largely unregulated in cosmetics.³

As you have heard today, not everyone is equally likely to experience these health impacts: women of color are more likely to use products that contain toxic ingredients, including skin lighteners and certain hair products.⁴ This is an issue of health equity and fairness,

As health care providers, our members believe that every person deserves an equal chance to be healthy. It is through passing bills like this one that we can ensure that all Oregonians can live long and meaningful lives. ONA urges a yes vote on SB 546. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

¹ California Department of Public Health. (2020). *Current data summary*. Current Data Summary. Retrieved February 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/OHB/CSCP/Pages/SummaryData.aspx>

² Selby, K. R. N. (2022, September 27). 45% of people worry about toxic makeup - should you? Mesothelioma Center - Vital Services for Cancer Patients & Families. Retrieved February 27, 2023, from <https://www.asbestos.com/featured-stories/makeup-toxicity-survey/>

³ Stokes, V. (2022, February 28). Is your favorite makeup toxic? here's how to tell. Healthline. Retrieved February 27, 2023, from <https://www.healthline.com/health/toxic-makeup#to-look-for>

⁴ Sifferlin, A. (2016, December 6). Hazardous Chemicals are common in beauty products marketed to Black Women. Time. Retrieved February 28, 2023, from <https://time.com/4591079/beauty-products-marketed-to-black-women-may-contain-more-hazardous-chemicals-report/>