



**Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney & Sara Carruthers**  
Sponsor Testimony on H.B. 495 (Humane Cosmetics)  
June 25, 2024

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Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the Commerce & Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 495. This bipartisan legislation seeks to end the cruel and unnecessary practice of animal testing in the cosmetics industry.

Animal testing in the cosmetics industry is an outdated, inhumane, and entirely unnecessary practice that can only be described as torture to an objective observer. Small animals that you might otherwise find available for adoption in your local pet store including rabbits, guinea pigs, & mice are forcibly constrained while chemical substances are forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes or smeared onto their skin. Picture dozens of small white rabbits, lined up on a lab bench with steel braces around their necks and metal instruments holding open their eyes while a dropper of chemicals is emptied into their frightened eyes. Many of these animals are permanently blinded or carry disfiguring scars & burns where the foreign substance was smeared onto their bare skin. A “lethal dose” test involves forcing an animal to swallow large amounts of chemicals until it dies to determine the dosage that causes death. Mercifully, the life of a test subject is often short; creatures that do not die in the course of their testing regime are often killed shortly thereafter.

For decades, traditional animal testing was seen as a necessary evil. It was an unpleasant, but important part of the rigorous health and safety testing the federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) needed to ensure that cosmetics products in the US were not harmful to consumers. But times have changed, technology has improved, and animal testing is no longer necessary to verify product safety. There are an increasing number of non-animal-based testing methods, including the use of lab-grown tissue samples and computer modeling, available to researchers that are more effective, more reliable, and more accurate than traditional animal testing. These newer, non-animal tests are already widely used in the cosmetics industry, oftentimes preferred by companies for being faster and more cost-effective as well as more accurate. In many ways, the industry has already moved on from animal testing; it is time for Ohio law to do the same.

House Bill 495 works by prohibiting the sale of cosmetics in Ohio that have been newly tested on animals. Importantly, this bill’s prohibition would **only apply to new products created & tested after the bill’s effective date**; cosmetics that are currently on the market, even those that have been previously tested on animals, would not be affected. There are also exemptions for non-cosmetics testing, including compounds that are intended for medicinal purposes, or circumstances in which there are no non-animal alternatives to resolve significant human-health concerns. This legislation aligns with federal legislation, the Humane Cosmetics Act, which has the support of the Personal Care Products Council, the leading national trade association representing 90% of the cosmetics industry. Ohio would join 12 other states that have already passed similar legislation and the testing of cosmetics on animals has been banned in 45 other countries around the world.

This bill is also good for consumers. Ohioans want to buy cosmetics that are cruelty-free, but the cosmetics market is currently clouded with confusion, and it is difficult to determine whether a given product was tested on animals due to inconsistency in industry standards. This bill would alleviate that burden on the consumer and give shoppers peace of mind during their next trip down the cosmetics aisle.

With this legislation, Ohio has the opportunity to transcend the outdated cruelty of traditional animal-testing and help catalyze further progress that is already happening across the cosmetics industry. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today; we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.