



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

SAFE PERSONAL CARE AND COSMETICS ACT

S.4265 – WEBB

A.6969 - GLICK

Description: Bans certain chemicals in personal care products and cosmetics that harm human health and the environment

Justification

Many personal care products and cosmetics contain chemicals that have proven to contribute to wide array of adverse health impacts, including cancer, asthma, developmental challenges, and obesity. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (e.g., phthalates, bisphenols and parabens) used in many of these products have been linked to male and female infertility. PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” are present in make-up, shaving creams, lotions, cleansers, and nail polish. Formaldehyde, added directly or created through chemical reactions in the bottle, is known to cause cancer, and can cause skin sensitization. While virtually all New Yorkers come in contact with personal care products containing ingredients of concern, they have a disproportionate impact on Black women, teenage girls, and femme-identifying people.

The development and manufacturing of these products remains one of the least regulated consumer product industries in the United States, and consumers in the U.S. remain mostly unaware that toxic chemicals are in the products they purchase. The U.S. is lagging behind other parts of the world—the European Union prohibits the use of carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic substances in cosmetic products, and the Canadian government prohibits or restricts hundreds of harmful chemicals that are currently permitted for use in the U.S.

In absence of federal leadership, this legislation would help protect New Yorkers from exposure to toxic chemicals in personal care products and give them the information they need to protect themselves. The bill would ban the sale of personal care products that contain a restricted substance, starting two years after the law takes effect. Restricted substances are outlined in the bill to include: lead; lead compounds; parabens including butyl-, ethyl-, isobutyl-, isopropyl-, methyl-, and propyl-; Ortho-phthalates and their esters; Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances; formaldehyde and formaldehyde releases; benzophenones; asbestos and asbestos containing compounds; butylated compounds; siloxanes; phenylenediamines; triclosan; nitrosamine and known carcinogens including benzene, carbon black, coal tar.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
S.4265/A.6969—Safe Personal Care and Cosmetics Act

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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