

# THE HAZARDS OF COSMETICS & PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

**VOTE YES  
ON SB 546**



## THE PROBLEM

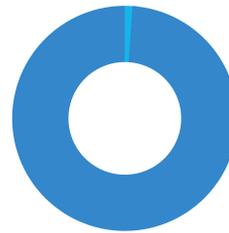
People assume personal and beauty products (collectively called “cosmetics”) are safe. But **the products we use every day**, such as lotions, shaving creams, deodorants, and make-up, **contain many chemicals that are known to be hazardous to our health.**

**The personal care products industry is one of the least regulated in the U.S.** It is estimated there are over 10,000 chemicals in the beauty market today, and account for a \$100 billion beauty industry. The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FDCA) has only restricted 11 chemicals since 1938, while the European Union has banned over 1800 chemicals.

While people across all spectrums use cosmetics, low-income women and women of color are disproportionately impacted.

## POLICY PRECEDENT

- At least 7 states in 2022 have introduced toxic-free cosmetics bills (California, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington)
- At least 6 states have already passed various versions of toxic-free cosmetics bills (California, Colorado; Maryland; New York; Wisconsin)
- Oregon has existing laws, such as the Toxics Free Kids Act, that has taking similar action on reducing toxic exposure for children.



Only 0.001% of known chemicals in personal care products are regulated,



*A 2011 study showed that the average woman in Oregon was using about 10 different products a day. That number has only increased, especially for women of color.*

## OREGON CAN ACT BY

- Requiring the public disclosure of all chemical ingredients on a company’s product webpage. Doing so is an accessible way for consumers to make educated purchasing decisions.
- Banning the sale of the worst chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products like many other states have.



**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION,  
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## RISKS FOR CHILDREN

Chemicals in cosmetics pose a **significant health threat** because they are repeatedly applied directly to our skin and are therefore absorbed into our bodies. Toxic cosmetic ingredients, known to have hormone disrupting properties have been found in women's breast milk and newborn babies.



**HARMFUL CARCINOGENS DON'T BELONG IN OUR COSMETIC AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS!**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The beauty industry derives some of its most common **ingredients from fossil fuels** such as mineral oil, petroleum jelly and paraffin wax, polyethylene glycol, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium laureth sulfate, and isopropyl alcohol come from fossil fuels, and their production is bad for both health and the planet.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

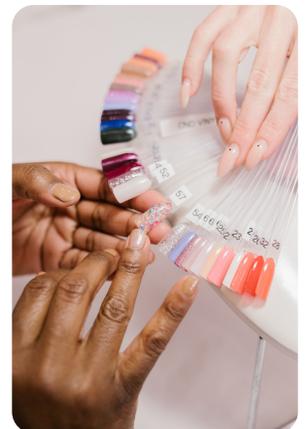
The average woman in Oregon uses about 10 different cosmetic products a day, and OEC's 2011 survey revealed that more than 8,000 cosmetics products are in use by Oregon women every day.

Research shows that Black women use more cosmetics, such as skin lighteners, that contain lead and mercury, and spend as much as 9 times more than the average consumer on hair products, lead to higher toxics exposure. And, women of color who use cosmetics have higher PFAS content in their bloodstream and up to 77% more likely to develop breast cancer if they use hair dyes.



## WORKER HEALTH

Such **chemical exposure is an occupational hazard**. Salon and nail salon workers (particularly Vietnamese women) are exposed to reproductive toxicants, such as toluene and benzene and have higher rates of cancer.



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