



# Toxic-Free Beauty Act of 2025

Rep. Schakowsky (D-IL) & Rep. Fletcher (D-TX)

## SUMMARY

The Toxic-Free Beauty Act of 2025 would prohibit 18 hazardous chemicals and 2 chemical classes from beauty and personal care products sold in the U.S., many of which are currently banned by the European Union, California, Oregon, Washington, Maryland, and Vermont.

## PROBLEM

Although thousands of industrial chemicals are used to create the personal care and beauty products that consumers and professional nail, hair, and beauty salon workers use every day, it is perfectly legal for these products to contain any number of hazardous ingredients. From cancer-causing asbestos in talc-based cosmetic products, to hormone disrupting phthalates in body wash, to brain damaging lead in lipstick, the situation is dangerous to the health of all. Breast cancer, learning disabilities, early puberty, reproductive and development harm are all on the rise, and hundreds of scientific studies show it's due in part to our ongoing daily exposure to toxic chemicals lurking in our homes, workplaces, and our communities, including our beauty and personal care products.

Women of color and professional salon workers are most at risk for unsafe exposures from these toxic chemicals because they are present in the beauty and personal care products aggressively marketed to them or commonly found in their workplaces. Other vulnerable populations include infants and children, whose bodies are constantly undergoing sensitive periods of development, pregnant women, and the elderly.

Large and small companies continue to sell beauty and personal care products containing these toxic chemicals simply because they can.

## SOLUTION

The Toxic-Free Beauty Act prohibits the use of the following intentionally added chemicals in consumer personal care and professional salon products. Cosmetic products sold in the U.S. containing any of these prohibited chemicals would be deemed adulterated by the FDA.<sup>i</sup>

1. The class of ortho-phthalates – linked to breast cancer, endocrine disruption, developmental issues, infertility, obesity and asthma, and learning disabilities.
2. The class of formaldehyde-releasing chemicals – linked to cancer.
3. Acetaldehyde – linked to cancer, neurotoxicity and mutagenicity.
4. Cyclotetrasiloxane – linked to persistence, bioaccumulation and aquatic toxicity.
5. Formaldehyde – linked to cancer.
6. Isobutylparaben – linked to breast cancer and endocrine disruption.
7. Isopropylparaben – linked to breast cancer and endocrine disruption.
8. Lilial – linked to developmental and systemic toxicity.
9. Mercury – linked to brain and nervous system damage.

10. Methylene glycol – linked to cancer and respiratory harm.
11. m-Phenylenediamine and its salts – linked to cancer, mutagenicity and organ system toxicity.
12. o-Phenylenediamine and its salts - linked to cancer, mutagenicity and organ system toxicity.
13. Styrene – linked to cancer.
14. Toluene – linked to neurotoxicity and developmental harm.
15. Triclosan – linked to endocrine disruption.
16. Triclocarban – linked to endocrine disruption.
17. Vinyl acetate – linked to cancer.

The Toxic-Free Beauty Act also prohibits the presence of the following contaminants in cosmetic products:

1. 1,4-dioxane - present at or above 2 ppm – linked to cancer and birth defects.
2. Lead and lead compounds - present at or above 5 ppm for color cosmetics and 2 ppm for general cosmetics – linked to cancer and brain damage.
3. Asbestos or asbestos containing compounds, including asbestos-contaminated talc - present at the lowest possible Limit of Detection (LOD) - linked to ovarian cancer and mesothelioma.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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<sup>i</sup> Section 601(a) of the FDCA (21 U.S.C. § 361(a)) states that a cosmetic is deemed adulterated if it “bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render it injurious to users under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling thereof, or under such conditions of use as are customary or usual.