



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

April 10, 2017

Assemblymember Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Rm 6005
Sacramento, CA 94249
Attn: John Gilman
John.Gilman@asm.ca.gov

RE: AB 1575 (Kalra)-- SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Wood:

On behalf of the American Medical Women's Association, I write to express my strong support for AB 1575. The bill will require manufacturers to list ingredients on the labels of professional cosmetics and make information on the potential health effects of ingredients more accessible. In addition, the bill will increase penalties for failure to comply with the law and provide for state agencies to recoup the cost when pursuing actions against violators.

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is an organization that functions at the local, national, and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. We achieve this by providing and developing leadership, advocacy, education, expertise and mentoring and through building strategic alliances. Founded in 1915, AMWA is the oldest multi-specialty organization of women physicians. As the vision and voice of women in medicine for over a century, AMWA empowers women to lead in improving health for all, within a model that reflects the unique perspective of women.

In California there are approximately 52,000 businesses licensed by the BBC to provide nail, hair, barber, and other beauty services. There are almost 129,000 licensed manicurists in the state; over 312,500 cosmetologists are licensed to provide nail and hair services.

On a daily basis, for long hours, nail and hair salon professionals handle solvents, glues, polishes, straighteners, and other beauty care products containing a multitude of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, allergies, respiratory, neurological and reproductive harm. Salon workers absorb chemicals through their skin and breathe them in as fumes build up in the air of the salon over the course of the workday. Research shows that salon workers are at greater risk for certain health problems compared to other occupations.

Products marketed to and used by beauty professionals, many of whom are women of color, are unlabeled, under-regulated, and often unhealthy. Currently, manufacturers must list ingredients on the

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labels of cosmetics sold at the retail level (like a Target or Walgreen's store)—this is good for the people who sell, buy, and use those products.

In contrast, chemical ingredients in professional cosmetics do not have to be listed on product labels. This lack of transparency hampers beauty professionals' ability to make informed choices about the products they use and how to protect their health. It also obstructs their ability to inform customers about ingredients used in these products.

Beauty professionals in the state have the right to know what chemicals they are being exposed to. Please vote yes for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Lo Chin, MD". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH
AMWA Executive Director
California Resident

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