

Resolution 3: Ban on Harmful Chemicals in Cosmetic and Personal Care Products

Sponsored by Rep. Sonya Harper, Illinois

Resolution Calling for a Federal Ban on Harmful Chemicals in Cosmetic and Personal Care Products

WHEREAS, women, and particularly women of color, disproportionately use a higher volume of cosmetic, hair, and personal care products and are therefore at greater risk of exposure to toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have shown that certain chemicals commonly used in cosmetics and personal care products, including but not limited to formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing agents, phthalates, parabens, mercury, and PFAS ("forever chemicals") have been linked to cancer, reproductive harm, hormone disruption, and other adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, disparities in beauty product safety are a public health and racial equity issue, with products marketed to Black women and girls more likely to contain harmful ingredients, contributing to disproportionate health risks; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not currently prohibit the use of many toxic substances in cosmetic products, leaving consumers vulnerable to harmful exposures and without consistent protections across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) is committed to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of women and families, advancing equity, and ensuring that communities of color are not disproportionately burdened by toxic chemical exposure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women calls upon the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban the manufacture, distribution, and sale of cosmetic and personal care products containing known toxic chemicals, including carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and other substances harmful to human health;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women urges Congress to enact comprehensive federal legislation mandating the FDA to update cosmetic safety standards, require full ingredient disclosure, establish stronger testing and oversight mechanisms, and protect consumers, particularly women of color, from disproportionate exposure to harmful substances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be formally delivered to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and appropriate members of the United States Congress;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women commits to working with federal, state, and local partners, as well as health and consumer advocacy organizations, to ensure equitable enforcement, education, and awareness around safer alternatives in cosmetics and personal care products.

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