

## House Resolution 616

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Parent of the 81<sup>st</sup>, and Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support of federal legislation that would better protect and inform consumers  
2 regarding cosmetic products; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific evidence links exposure to toxic chemicals to many  
4 diseases and health conditions that are rising in incidence including asthma, certain cancers,  
5 reproductive disorders, and developmental disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, studies have shown that man-made chemicals in personal care products such  
7 as triclosan and phthalates make their way into our bodies and can be detected in blood,  
8 urine, and breast milk; and

9 WHEREAS, emerging science suggests that exposure to even very small amounts of toxic  
10 chemicals during particular developmental stages, such as puberty or prenatal development,  
11 may impact the long-term risks of developing cancer, neurological issues, and reproductive  
12 challenges; and

13 WHEREAS, pregnant women, children, women of color, and workers are uniquely  
14 vulnerable to the health threats of toxic chemicals used in personal care products; and

15 WHEREAS, recent surveys indicate that United States residents use approximately ten  
16 personal care products a day, resulting in chronic exposure to more than 100 unique  
17 chemicals; and

18 WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has little authority to regulate  
19 cosmetics, does not assess the safety of products or ingredients before they are sold, and does  
20 not have the authority to require recalls of dangerous products; and

21 WHEREAS, constituent ingredients in fragrance mixtures are not required to be disclosed  
22 on product labels; and

23 WHEREAS, the majority of the approximately 12,500 chemicals used in personal care  
24 products have never been assessed for safety by a publicly accountable government body;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, cosmetics sold in the United States contain ingredients and impurities with  
27 known and suspected health hazards, including lead, mercury, hydroquinone, coal tar,  
28 formaldehyde, 1,4 dioxane, acylamide, and phthalates; and

29 WHEREAS, the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act of 1938 that governs cosmetics has not been  
30 amended significantly since it was enacted more than 70 years ago and entrusts the safety of  
31 ingredients in cosmetics to the industry funded Cosmetics Ingredient Review Panel; and

32 WHEREAS, the European Union and several countries around the world have modernized  
33 their cosmetics regulations and tightened controls on toxic chemicals; and

34 WHEREAS, a growing number of cosmetics companies have shifted to safer product  
35 formulations that do not contain carcinogens, mutagens, and reproductive toxins, driving  
36 growth in the marketplace and stimulating innovation in green chemistry; and

37 WHEREAS, federal legislation is needed to provide the Food and Drug Administration with  
38 comprehensive authority to regulate cosmetics to include safe ingredients for children, the  
39 elderly, workers, and other vulnerable populations; phase out cosmetic ingredients linked to  
40 cancer, birth defects, and developmental harm; require manufacturers to fully disclose  
41 ingredients on product labels and websites, including salon products and the constituent  
42 ingredients in fragrances; provide access to information about unsafe chemicals in  
43 professional products to workers; and require the disclosure and sharing of safety data.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
45 the members of this body encourage the enactment of federal legislation that better protects  
46 and informs consumers regarding cosmetic products.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
48 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the members of the Georgia  
49 congressional delegation.