



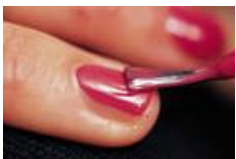
## Cosmetics Companies Lobby Against Safe Cosmetics Legislation

California has often been the national leader in innovative legislation to protect human health and the environment. From setting the national standard on fuel efficiency to putting into place Proposition 65, a law to inform and protect California citizens from chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, California has set the standard.

Unfortunately, Cosmetics industry representatives have recently lobbied aggressively to block two pieces of innovative safe cosmetics legislation in California. One, which would have banned the use of phthalates in cosmetics, was killed as a result of this shameful lobbying effort. The other, which requires disclosure of cancer-causing chemicals and reproductive toxins in product ingredients, is still alive and will be voted on later this year.

Senate Bill 484 – introduced by California State Senator Carole Migden and sponsored by the National Environmental Trust, Breast Cancer Fund and Breast Cancer Action – asks California to take the disclosure, research and regulatory responsibility that the federal government have been so far unwilling to take pertaining to toxic chemicals in cosmetics.

This precedent-setting legislation would 1) require cosmetics manufacturers that do business in



California to disclose to the state Department of Health Services (DHS) ingredients in their products known to cause cancer or birth defects; 2) give DHS the authority to examine health and safety

studies on the use of cancer causing chemicals and reproductive toxins conducted by cosmetics manufacturers – and, *investigate* the health impacts of the use of these chemicals; and 3) Give the state the authority to regulate the use of toxic chemicals in occupational settings such as nail and beauty salons, if it finds harmful exposures are taking place.

**Why is this bill critically important from an environmental health, women's health and labor rights perspective?**

- In California there are over 206,000 cosmetologists and 83,500 manicurists.
- Industry estimates reveal over 93% of nail salon workers in the U.S. to be female and 80% to be of Vietnamese descent.

- Many of these workers are of recent immigrant status, presenting a variety of social and economic barriers to this unique workforce.
- Beauty care workers, usually of childbearing age, are thought to be the most highly exposed workers.
- Some nail polishes, for example, contain the phthalate DBP at levels up to 50,000 parts per million.
- A 2001 study found that nearly 20% of bladder cancers in Los Angeles County may be attributed to the use of permanent hair dyes that contain cancer-causing coal tar -- a five-fold increased risk compared to the general population.
- Breast cancer rates among cosmetologists is almost 2 times higher that of the general population, even after adjusting for smoking, alcohol and socioeconomic status.



*We know that implementing the highest possible standard for health and safety for salon workers will protect California consumers as well, and help support other efforts for safe cosmetics nationwide!*

**Broad based support for the CA Safe Cosmetics Act of 2005 is dwarfed in comparison to the vigor in which the cosmetics industry has vowed to defeat this measure.** The opposition to SB484 has launched an extremely well organized campaign financed by the industry's trade association -- the Cosmetics, Toiletries and Fragrance Association (CTFA). They hired a fancy PR agency to organize against both safe cosmetics bills with tactics that included creating a bogus corporate website masquerading as a non-profit/ informational site ([www.cosmeticsaresafe.com](http://www.cosmeticsaresafe.com)); buying time on National Public Radio to suggest the CTFA existed in California to protect consumers (instead of industry interests); and recruiting industry lobbyists from around the country to lobby against the bills including representatives from companies including *Estee Lauder, L'Oreal, Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Avon, Mary Kay Cosmetics, OPI Nails, Dial Corporation and Johnson & Johnson.*

**Find out more, learn about the products you use and support our efforts for safer products and smarter laws to protect our health from toxic chemicals at [www.SafeCosmetics.org](http://www.SafeCosmetics.org).**