



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

March 9, 2022

Representative Frank Pallone (New Jersey-6)
Chair, Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Gus Bilirakis (Florida-12)
Republican Leader, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (Washington-5)
Republican Leader, Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (Virginia-3)
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (Illinois-9)
Chair, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Virginia Foxx (North Carolina-5)
Republican Leader, Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives

AIHA Support for U.S. H.R.5540 – Cosmetic Safety for Communities of Color and Professional Salon Workers Act

Dear Chairman Pallone, Republican Leader McMorris Rogers, Chairwoman Schakowsky, Republican Leader Bilirakis, Chairman Scott, and Republican Leader Foxx:

AIHA, the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety, commends the House for focusing on legislation to protect the health and safety of professional salon workers. **We urge the Energy & Commerce Committee, Education and Labor Committee, and House to swiftly pass [H.R.5540](#), the Cosmetic Safety for Communities of Color and Professional Salon Workers Act, and encourage your colleagues to enact the bill into law.**

This legislation is particularly important as regulations and guidance often focus on consumer protections, however, the health and safety of workers is frequently an afterthought. Salon workers may face additional barriers, as they may be in a tenant relationship with the building or salon owner, renting the space, bringing in their own equipment, and having little control over building conditions.

H.R.5540 would increase protection for salon workers, with an emphasis on communities of color, by increasing access to safety data sheets for each cosmetic or personal care product for professional use that is used in the course of the employer's business. The bill would also foster better communication of hazards by requiring the translation of guidance into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and other languages upon request.

Additionally, H.R.5540 would authorize research grants focused on basic hazard communication, epidemiological, and social scientific investigations into the adverse health effects of chemicals found in cosmetic products used by professional nail, hair, and beauty salon workers and the availability of safer alternatives and research on effective prevention efforts or hazard avoidance including administrative, personal protective equipment and ventilation or other engineering controls.

The bill would also create an Interagency Council on Cosmetic Safety, comprised of representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Small Business Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Department of Labor. The Council would be focused on "sharing data and promoting collaboration on cosmetic safety and generating solutions to address the adverse health effects experienced by women and girls of color and professional nail, hair, and beauty salon workers because of using or working with unsafe chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products."

AIHA recommends that you update the legislation to clarify that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) would be a member of the Council on Cosmetic Safety. While the CDC would be a member of the Council and NIOSH falls under the CDC, we feel that it is important to make NIOSH's membership on the Council clear. Similar language is found elsewhere in the legislation. For instance, while OSHA falls under the Department of Labor, both are specified as Council members.

Conclusion and next steps

AIHA urges you to help protect currently underserved professional salon workers by swiftly passing H.R.5540, the "Cosmetic Safety for Communities of Color and

Professional Salon Workers Act” and encouraging your colleagues to enact the bill into law.

AIHA thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this legislation and looks forward to working with you to help protect more workers and their communities. If you have any questions on these recommendations or other matters, please contact Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Sloan, MBA, FASAE, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

About AIHA

AIHA is the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, networks, comprehensive education programs, and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional and competency standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed across the public and private sectors as well as to the communities in which they work. For more information, please visit www.aiha.org.

Cc:

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (Delaware-At Large)
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (New York-9)
Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (Arizona-3)
Rep. Daniel T. Kildee (Michigan-5)
Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (New York-18)
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (District of Columbia-At Large)
Rep. Alma Adams (North Carolina-12)
Rep. Fred Keller (Pennsylvania-12)