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May 22, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1575 (Kalra) Professional cosmetics: labeling requirements – Support
As Amended April 27, 2017

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

The Consumer Federation of California (CFC) writes in support of AB 1575, which would require manufacturers to list ingredients on the labels of professional cosmetics and make information on the potential health effects of ingredients more accessible.

In California there are approximately 52,000 businesses licensed 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, are unlabeled, under-regulated, and often unhealthy. Currently, manufacturers must list ingredients on the 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 have the right to know what chemicals they are being exposed to.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for on AB 1575.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Aaron Lewis, CFC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 498-9616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Holober". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Holober
Executive Director

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Appropriations Committee