

Thank you to Washington State for your leadership in protecting public health. I strongly support the Department of Ecology's draft rule to ban all formaldehyde releasers in cosmetics. This is a necessary step toward creating safer personal care products for all women and girls.

As a breast cancer survivor and advocate, I know how important it is that the products we use on our bodies every day are free from harmful chemicals. From a young age, women and girls are exposed to countless personal care products—many of which contain ingredients linked to cancer, reproductive harm, and hormone disruption. No one should have to worry that what they're using to care for themselves could be putting their health at risk.

This issue is also a matter of justice. Black women, in particular, are disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals due to the targeted marketing of products like hair straighteners and relaxers. These products often contain formaldehyde or its releasers and have been linked to increased risk of hormone-related cancers and long-term health consequences. This rule is a necessary move toward safer products and greater health equity. I urge you to continue putting people over profits. All women and girls deserve access to safe, nontoxic personal care products.

With gratitude,
Tiah Tomlin-Harris
Women's Health Advocate