

Jacquelyne Hendry-Dragich

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

As you consider the Washington State Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, I urge you to explore a balanced approach regarding the regulation of formaldehyde in cosmetics.

Washington would be the first state to enact a complete ban on formaldehyde in personal care products. While the intent to protect consumers and workers is commendable, an outright ban may have unintended consequences—such as limiting product availability, creating regulatory discrepancies with federal standards, and placing undue strain on small businesses in the beauty industry.

Instead, I propose a pragmatic and protective alternative:

- Require clear labeling on all cosmetic products that contain formaldehyde or formaldehyde-releasing agents.
- Mandate hazard warnings and proper handling instructions, especially for professionals in salons and cosmetology schools who are most at risk.
- Ensure that disposal guidance and PPE recommendations are included to minimize exposure and protect public health.

This regulatory approach promotes transparency, empowers consumer and worker choice, and encourages manufacturers to pursue safer alternatives—without immediately disrupting the marketplace or isolating Washington from broader national standards.

I ask you to consider this path forward—one that prioritizes health, safety, and economic practicality.

Respectfully,
Jacquelyne Dragich-Hendry
Licensed Master Esthetician, MA-P, EMT