



Handmade Cosmetic Alliance
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LEGISLATION ALERT – SMALL BUSINESS VICTORY

Today, Senators Feinstein and Collins introduced a new cosmetic bill into the United States Senate. The title of the bill is Personal Care Products Safety Act of 2017.

The Handmade Cosmetic Alliance (HCA) has long maintained that no new legislation is needed for the handmade segment of the industry. However, since 2009 other stakeholders, such as consumer groups and large industry, have been pushing hard for changes. Recent public health concerns for products like WEN Hair Straightener and questions on ingredient safety for chemicals, such as parabens and lead in lipstick colors, have strengthened arguments for greater federal oversight. Likewise, large industry has made preemption a top priority so they no longer need to accommodate the diverse manufacturing requirements of individual states. The efforts of these stakeholders over the last eight years have increased the likelihood that Congress is now ready to consider passing new legislation.

The Handmade Cosmetic Alliance has worked tirelessly with members of Congress to ensure that any new legislation does not inadvertently harm hobbyists, emerging businesses and small companies operating in the small-batch handmade arena.

The good news is the Handmade Cosmetic Alliance and its coalition partners, the Coalition of Handcrafted Entrepreneurs (COHE) and the Handcrafted Soap and Cosmetic Guild (HSCG), had their voices heard. In this bill the provisions are unprecedented in helping ensure the handmade industry remains a vital, innovative and growing part of the economy.

I am pleased to report that the Personal Care Products Safety Act of 2017 includes the following special provisions that will protect hobbyists, small businesses and home-based producers. Specifically, the legislation provides the following provisions:

- **Hobbyists, Emerging & Very Small Businesses** – Cosmetic producers with annual sales less than \$500,000 (average of previous 3 years) are not subject to the legislation and do not need to register.
- **Private Residence** – A private residence used to manufacture, process and sell cosmetic products with annual sales less than \$1,000,000 (average of previous 3 years) is not subject to the legislation and do not need to register.

- **Small Business Simplified Facility Registration** – Registered businesses with annual sales less than \$2 million (average of previous 3 years) only need to register their name, address, phone, email and consumer product-line categories (such as, soap, lotion, scrub, etc.).
- **Registration Fees:** Registered small businesses with annual sales under \$2 million will not be required to pay registration fees.

The legislation outlines high risk product groups that are exempt from the above provisions. These include products with application to the eye, lip products containing dye/color, products intended for internal use and products intended to alter the appearance for greater than 24 hours.

Since 2009, HCA leadership has been working with Congress to protect the over 300,000 primarily woman-owned businesses making and selling products in their communities. As time has passed and through their ongoing work in Washington DC, it has become obvious that new cosmetic legislation is going to be adopted and enacted into law.

The Handmade Cosmetic Alliance urges its members as well as others to support the Personal Care Products Safety Act of 2017. As written, this legislation provides comprehensive exemptions and accommodations for the vast majority of handmade cosmetic companies producing quality products in the United States.

Sincerely,



Deborah May
President & Executive Director
Handmade Cosmetic Alliance