

For Immediate Release

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This week in Washington Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) has co-sponsored the “Personal Care Products Safety Act”. This legislation is intended to update regulations and reform the laws that govern our country's personal care products. While The Handcrafted Soap and Cosmetic Guild (HSCG) supports many of the provisions in the bill that help identify ingredients that are potentially harmful, encourage transparency and give the FDA recall authority, we cannot support this bill as it currently exists.

The HSCG agrees with others in the handcrafted soap and cosmetic industry that this bill puts an undue burden on the small business owner that it will stifle the growth of the industry and force many businesses, 95% of which are women owned, to close their doors. Further, it disproportionately places burdensome fees, reporting requirements and registration on these small and emerging businesses that are assets to their local economies. The proposed regulation’s requirements place burdens on handcrafted soap and cosmetic small business that far exceed that which are placed on the food industry and small farms.

While we applaud the overhaul of outdated legislation by Senators Feinstein and Collins, we cannot support this legislation as it pertains to the small business owners as we believe it threatens their viability and threatens the livelihood of the over 300,000 businesses that make up the handcrafted soap and cosmetic industry in the United States.

In response to the introduction of the bill, Leigh O’Donnell, HSCG Executive Director said, “The HSCG supports safe cosmetics and updating the regulations but not at the expense of small businesses. Our members strive to make safe products, many out of simple ingredients, and they put their heart and soul into

their products and their businesses. Any bill that is passed must take these hardworking American entrepreneurs into consideration.”