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Committee Chair, Senator Fong Hawj,
Assistant Majority Leader
Senator Sandra L. Pappas

Re: SF 1481: Skin-Lightener Notice Required

March 18, 2025

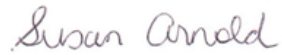
Dear Senator Hawj, and Senator Pappas,

I am providing this letter to express the strong support of SF 1481: SKIN-LIGHTENER NOTICE REQUIRED on behalf of Dr. Trần Huỳnh and myself. Dr. Huỳnh and I are Associate Professors at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences. Our research includes the community-engaged research project with our community partner BeautyWell, to build healthier work and home environments for immigrant-owned beauty salon owners and employees. The sale and use of skin lightening products in this community is common, and too often leads to toxic mercury exposures among an already vulnerable population due to skin lightening product contamination.

This legislation will boost awareness of the serious health hazards associated with skin lightening products by sending notices to retailers who sell skin-lightening products but may be unaware of the potential presence of mercury. It will also hold businesses accountable by including a provision for self-certifying that they have been informed of these dangers. Taken together, these measures will help reduce the availability of mercury-containing products and reduce the risks to the women and children who would otherwise unknowingly be exposed.

We therefore issue our support for this bill in the strongest terms.

Sincerely,



Susan Arnold, PhD, MSOH, CIH

Associate Professor

Director, Exposure Science & Sustainability Institute

Director, Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety

University of Minnesota School of Public Health



Trần Huỳnh, PhD, MPH, CIH

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