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The Honorable Kathleen Hochul, Governor

State of New York

New York State-Capitol Building

Albany, New York 12224

November 20, 2025

To The Honorable Kathleen Hochul, Governor,

Hair relaxers have historically been the "go to" product for Black women and Afro-Latina women who wanted to achieve "straight hair," for over a century. These products that have been used for generations within households and hair salons throughout the United States, and historically, have been deemed a "necessity" in Black culture, in order to assimilate in the workplace, schools, and society overall.

Over the years, chemical relaxers have been studied and now, the research shows what many suspected—that the toxic chemicals in hair relaxers, designed to straighten textured hair, and hair that was deemed "unmanageable" by mainstream media, have caused and continue to cause irreparable harm in the bodies of Black women...and in many instances, leading to death. These companies continued to market these products, although they knew that products containing parabens were doing damage to the physical health of Black women.

These chemicals have caused not only endocrine disruption, resulting in hormone imbalance at very young ages for Black women, these endocrine disrupters can cause uterine cancer, endometriosis and other hormone issues.

To date, there are over 10,000 women who have filed lawsuits in the Multi District Litigation throughout the country and the first Bellweather trials are set for jury selection in January 2026!

Sincerely,

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