

May 5, 2023

Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

We are writing to urge you not to sign Bill 315.

As a national organization representing food safety professionals in all 50 states, all eight uniformed services, and an Affiliate in Iowa, we know from experience that the proposed bill puts the health and well-being of your community at risk. While attempts were proposed to reduce the risk of selling raw milk by testing animals for bacteria levels, these tests are ineffective controls for the many pathogens in raw milk that repeatedly demonstrate time and time again how unsafe raw milk is for human consumption.

From 2013–2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2018) linked 75 outbreaks to raw milk. As a result of those outbreaks, 675 people fell ill and 98 people required hospitalization. More than two thirds of those outbreaks occurred in states where the sale of raw milk was legal.

Dangerous pathogens can be found in raw milk:

- *E. coli* O157:H7 sickened 15 children in Tennessee in 2018, requiring 9 children to be hospitalized with 7 people developing hemolytic uremic syndrome (Knox County Health Department, 2018).
- *Campylobacter jejuni* sickened 99 people and killed 1 person in Utah in 2014 (Davis et al., 2016), sickened 38 people in Wisconsin (Pepin County Health Department & Wisconsin Division of Public Health, 2014), and sickened 17 people in Colorado (Burakoff et al., 2018).
- In a 2016 outbreak, children fell ill from Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*; three developed hemolytic uremic syndrome (Ferrell, 2017).
- From 2005–2012, seven outbreaks were linked to raw milk or raw milk cheese products in Washington, resulting in 53 illnesses (Washington State Department of Health, (n.d.)).
- One person died from listeriosis in 2014 (CDC, 2016).
- *Cryptosporidium* sickened two children in Idaho in 2014 (Rosenthal et al., 2015).

These examples are only a fraction of the outbreaks that have been associated with the consumption of raw milk. We urge you to veto Bill 315 to protect your constituents from deadly pathogens.

In health,



David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH

References

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