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## SUPPORT HB 4036 HA1

### Amends the Grade A Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products Act

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**Legislators are urged to support HB 4036 HA1 to protect Illinois children and residents from potentially serious illness due to consumption of raw milk.** House amendment 1 of HB 4036 is important because it removes language without rules (therefore, currently a loophole) stating that milk pasteurization shall not be applicable if the raw, unpasteurized milk product is sold or distributed on the premises of a dairy farm. *This loophole is dangerous and needs to be deleted, so Illinois children and residents are not exposed to unsafe raw milk and milk products.*

#### SUPPORTING FACTS:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the American Medical Association **strongly advise against human consumption of raw milk since it may contain a wide variety of harmful bacteria – including *Salmonella*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Listeria*, *Campylobacter*, and *Brucella* – that may cause illness and possibly death.**<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Because of the potential for serious illness, federal law prohibits dairies from distributing raw milk across state lines in final package form (packaged so that it can be consumed), meaning that raw milk can only be distributed across state lines if it is going to be pasteurized or used to make aged (over 60 days) cheese before being sold to consumers.<sup>4</sup>
- Each state makes its own laws about selling raw milk within the borders of the state; in about half of states, sale of raw milk directly to consumers is illegal, and in the remaining states, raw milk may be sold to directly to consumers.<sup>4</sup>
- States that allow the legal sale of raw milk for human consumption have **more than twice the rate of raw milk-related outbreaks of illness** than states that do not allow raw milk to be sold legally.<sup>4</sup>
- **The rate of outbreaks caused by raw or unpasteurized milk and products made from it was 150 times greater** than outbreaks linked to pasteurized milk, according to a study reviewing dairy product outbreaks from 1993 to 2006 in all 50 states, published by CDC in March 2012.<sup>5</sup>

- Among dairy product-associated outbreaks reported to CDC between 1998 and 2011 in which the investigators reported whether the product was pasteurized or raw, 79% were due to raw milk or cheese; **from 1998 through 2011, 148 outbreaks due to consumption of raw milk or raw milk products were reported to CDC, which resulted in 2,384 illnesses, 284 hospitalizations, and 2 deaths.**<sup>4</sup>
- It is important to note that **a substantial proportion of the raw milk-associated disease burden falls on children**; among the 104 outbreaks from 1998-2011 with information on the patients' ages available, **82% involved at least one person younger than 20 years old.**<sup>4</sup>
- The number of reported cases determined to be outbreak-related likely **represents a small proportion of the actual number of illnesses associated with raw or unpasteurized milk consumption.**<sup>6</sup>
- The **American Academy of Pediatrics approves a ban on the sale of raw or unpasteurized milk and milk products throughout the United States.**<sup>7</sup>
- **Illinois law prohibits the retail sale of raw milk, but allows on-farm sales with untracked distribution.**<sup>8</sup>
- Unpasteurized dairy products may currently be obtained in Illinois through private food clubs, co-ops, or under a communal program to purchase shares in dairy cows (i.e., cow shares, a scheme used to circumvent state restrictions on commercial sales of nonpasteurized dairy products).<sup>5,8</sup>
- Human consumption of non-pasteurized dairy products **cannot be considered safe under any circumstances.**<sup>5</sup>

*Therefore, the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium supports **prohibiting the sale and/or distribution of all raw or unpasteurized milk and milk products in Illinois**, by promoting implementation, enforcement, and education of regulations by the Illinois Department of Public Health and other state and local agencies as relevant, **to prevent distribution of unpasteurized dairy products to consumers.***

## References

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