



February 19, 2013

Via E-Mail Only

Honorable Members of the Iowa House Local Government Committee:

My name is Fred Pritzker. I am the president of the national food safety law firm, Pritzker Olsen, P.A. My firm represents survivors of foodborne illness. We have been and continue to be involved in virtually every national foodborne illness outbreak. On behalf of our clients, we investigate foodborne illness outbreaks, retain and work with food safety experts, litigate cases against wrongdoers and advocate for safe food production, distribution and sale.

We also represent people sickened by raw milk due to contamination with *Campylobacter jejuni*, *E. coli* O157:H7 and other dangerous pathogens. Raw milk can cause kidney failure, paralysis and death. I know because I have stood by the bedsides of people who innocently drank raw milk and ended up hooked up to life support fighting for their lives.

In my line of work, I have frequent contact with food safety experts including microbiologists, epidemiologists, environmental health professionals and infectious disease physicians. Not once have any of these experts ever recommended consumption of raw milk.

Why? Because *EXPERTS*, the people who have studied, trained, conducted experiments, treated patients and written peer-reviewed articles (not pseudo-scientists who *BELIEVE* something to be true), know that raw milk is inherently unsafe. Raw milk is responsible for repeated outbreaks and will continue to cause illness no matter what its proponents claim to the contrary.

Need proof? Look no further than the 2011 raw milk outbreak involving fourth graders at a public school in Wisconsin. In Racine County, Wisconsin a parent (!) brought raw milk to a school event. Sixteen people, including at least nine children, were poisoned with *Campylobacter jejuni* bacteria after consuming the donated milk. In fact, since 2010 there have been more than 30 outbreaks involving raw milk with more than 400 people reported ill.

Proponents claim that consumption of raw milk is healthful, nutritious and a matter of personal choice. Their argument is that if a person knows of the risk (which they claim is too small to be concerned with) and chooses to encounter it, it is that person's choice and the state should not intrude.

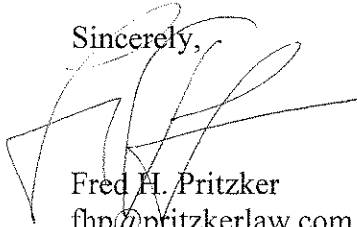
Fair enough. Except, that a) there is no proof raw milk is healthier than pasteurized milk; b) the risks associated with raw milk are not small; c) when people become ill from raw milk, as some inevitably will, we all (not just the victim) have to pay for it; and d) as this case tragically illustrates, "freedom of choice" does not prevent innocent children from being harmed.

Raw milk is a dangerous product that should not be sold to the public. Virtually every health department (federal, state and local) recommends against its use. It is particularly dangerous for



young children, people with compromised immune systems and the elderly. I encourage you to maintain Iowa's current law and keep the sale of raw milk illegal by voting against HSB131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FHP', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Fred H. Pritzker
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FHP/mrr