

**Testimony to the
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources
February 12, 2020**

Chairman Kerschen, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Aaron Pauly, a 4th generation dairy farmer from Sedgwick County. I am appearing before you today on SB 300 and ask for your support in voting in favor of this bill.

I am in favor of the this bill because it protects the misinformed or uninformed consumers from the dangers of consuming raw milk. Some of the so called “dairy farmers” that are selling raw milk to individuals are not required to have their milking equipment or facilities inspected or licensed as my dairy operation is. When someone gets sick from drinking raw milk, the headline will read “Milk from local dairy sickens or kills child.” There will then be a push to have more regulations on dairy farms. More than likely, the individual who sold the raw milk will not be subject to regulations because the State of Kansas technically does not recognize their existence. The 256 licensed dairies and my family dairy in the State of Kansas will be required to follow the new rules even though the protocols, we follow, including pastuerization exponentially decrease the risk of such illnesses in milk consumption.

Many of the comments I have read say the bill is corporate ag trying to prevent the little farmer from making a living. That is not true. My dairy farm is considered small as we milk around 160 cows. I am still in favor of banning raw milk sales. SB 300 does not prohibit an individual and that individual’s family from consuming raw milk produced on that individual’s animal. It would ban the unregulated sales to uninformed public.

There is a certain nostalgia associated with the way our grandparents or great parents operated their farms, the food they ate, etc. We as a society thru education and technology advances, have progressed to a higher standard of living. Some will make the argument that our ancestors used to drink raw milk so why shouldn’t we drink it now. Let us remember that our ancestors also didn’t have running water, indoor plumbing, electricity and rode horses as a main source of travel.

We also need to make the distinction between those whose farming operation is their sole occupation and living and those who do it as a side hobby. I have read comments on several different raw milk support forums “If I can’t sell a couple extra gallons of milk, my farm will go under.” If selling \$10 worth of raw milk a week keeps your “farm” open, then you have a hobby

not a business. For example, I like to grow flowers for my own enjoyment in my spare time but that doesn't make me an expert in horticulture or that I make my living selling flowers, plants, trees, etc like a commercial green house. If I wanted to sell or distribute the flowers or plants that I grow in my garden, I would expect to have to follow the same rules and regulations as someone who is a licensed green house.

Thank you for the time today and I again ask for your vote in favor of Senate Bill 300.

Thank you Mr Chairman for your attention, I am happy to stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Aaron Pauly