

**Written Testimony on Senate Bill 308**  
**Senate Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020**  
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Chairman Kerschen and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on Senate Bill 308. Senate Bill 308 would amend existing law concerning milk, cream, dairy products and on-farm retail sale of milk. The amendment would abolish the limit on promotion and advertising of on-farm retail sale of ungraded raw milk and ungraded raw milk-products beyond the premises of the dairy farm if the label and advertisement for the products contains language specified in the bill.

Raw milk can carry dangerous germs, such as *Brucella*, *Campylobacter*, *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, *Listeria*, and *Salmonella*, which can pose serious health risks to people. The risk of getting sick from drinking contaminated raw milk is greater for infants and young children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems, such as people with cancer or who have had an organ transplant. But even healthy people can get very sick if they drink raw milk contaminated with harmful germs. From 1993 through 2012, 127 outbreaks reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were linked to raw milk. These outbreaks included 1,909 illnesses and 144 hospitalizations.

The KDHE Secretary, under K.S.A. 65-101, has the authority to investigate the causes and prevent the spread of diseases. Under that authority, KDHE investigates reports of foodborne illnesses. Between 2017 and 2019, of the foodborne illness complaints investigated by KDHE, we had 54 cases that reported consuming unpasteurized milk or an unpasteurized milk product. Because of the inherent risk in consuming unpasteurized milk products, KDHE recognizes the need to include safety information in the labeling and advertising of these products. We believe that the proposed wording in Senate Bill 308 allows the Kansas consumer to make an informed decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 308.

*Protect and Improve the Health and Environment of all Kansans*