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Members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Robyn King. I am co-owner of Jako Farm in Hutchinson. Prior to transitioning to working full time with my husband on our dairy farm in 2014 I was a public health nurse at the Harvey County Health Department.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 346. I am opposed to labeling raw milk as a hazardous product. Since raw milk must be purchased directly from a farm, consumers are aware of what they are purchasing. They cannot accidentally pick up the product in the grocery store. In fact, consumers research and intentionally seek out raw milk to purchase from farmers they know and trust. The proposed language in this bill is simply fear inducing.

We have been selling raw milk directly to customers for over 17 years. Prior to this we were a licensed grade A dairy. Most of our customers drive over an hour to purchase our products. They ask educated questions about each step of the process of raising and producing the products they purchase directly from our farm and they have the ability to see where the cows are milked and see the cows grazing in the pasture. They have a connection to the farmer - we meet each and every consumer who comes to our farm. This is a far more educated purchase than anything you buy in the grocery store. Let consumers take ownership of their food safety and know where their food comes from.

I am most concerned about giving the Secretary of Agriculture the right to declare raw milk an "imminent health hazard". This statement gives power to shut down my family's business with unclear just cause. This is plainly overreach.

Kansas is an agricultural state. I urge you to consider the impact this law has on small family farms. Our business, along with several other raw milk dairies in Kansas, is thriving. Why would you want to impede the success of small family farms in Kansas that are actually thriving and serving consumers, especially in a time of supply chain issues and global economic challenges?

I also want to bring awareness to how quickly this bill is moving. It was introduced and presented to the committee in less than a week, limiting the public's ability to be heard.

Thank you for your time.