

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

**2314 Benson Mill Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152
March 10, 2025**

Favorable HB 1449

Public Health - Prohibited Ingredients in Food

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the HGO Committee:

I am Emily Tarsell, a mother, licensed therapist and founder of Health Choice Maryland. The mission of our organization is to promote education for informed medical choice and health freedom. In keeping with that mission, we ask your Favorable report for HB1449.

Raw milk is a nutrient dense food that has served mankind for centuries. The health benefits of raw milk are legendary but they are compromised by the heating process required today for pasteurized milk. I have relatives who live in a state where raw milk is allowed to be sold for human consumption. I and they have enjoyed this milk with no negative outcomes and I have longed wished it was available in Maryland.

This bill defines safeguards around the licensing, production, monitoring and sale of raw milk which addresses any concerns there may be in terms of safety. Additionally, the required labeling for informed consent is more than adequate for giving consumers information to make an informed choice. This type of regulation is long overdue and we ask for your Favorable report for HB 1449. Thank you.

Emily Tarsell, LCPC