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Government Operations and  
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## *The Maryland House of Delegates* ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **HB1449 Public Health - Milk Products - Direct-to-Consumer Sale of Raw Milk for Human Consumption**

Monday, March 10, 2025

Health and Government Operations Committee

#### **WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?**

This bill allows raw milk to be sold for human consumption with specific protections and limitations to promote safety and ensure that consumers are informed.

#### **IT'S ABOUT FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND MY BODY MY CHOICE**

This is about freedom—the freedom of informed individuals to make their own choices, the freedom of small farmers to meet that demand, and the freedom of this body to craft policy that is both responsible and responsive to the people we serve.

HB 1449 is a measured, thoughtful step toward that freedom. It does not throw open the doors to raw milk sales in grocery stores. Instead, it creates a carefully regulated, tightly controlled pathway for consumers who deliberately seek it out. Those who wish to purchase raw milk must do so with full intent, traveling to a farm that has voluntarily chosen to meet the highest standards of cleanliness, safety, and transparency.

And let's be clear: those standards will be high. The farms participating in this program won't just be in the business of selling raw milk—they'll be in the business of earning trust. Their facilities, their herds, and their product will undergo rigorous, frequent testing to ensure the utmost safety.

Right now, an underground market exists—one where there are no regulations, no testing, no oversight. That's the reality. HB 1449 brings this issue out of the shadows and into the light. It gives us a seat at the table. It allows us to put safeguards in place where none currently exist.

Some Marylanders will never choose to drink raw milk. That's their right. Others, however, are well-informed, highly educated on the subject, and determined to do so. Why should we deny them the ability to make that choice safely?

This bill is about common sense. It's about respecting personal responsibility while ensuring public safety. It's about the American principle that the government's role is not to dictate personal choices but to create a framework where those choices can be made wisely and safely.

I urge you to support HB 1449—not as a radical step, but as a reasonable, pragmatic measure that acknowledges both liberty and accountability. Thank you.