

HB 1023: Lab-Grown Meat - Prohibition: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1023**, *Lab-Grown Meat - Prohibition*.

HB 1023 protects consumers, traditional agriculture, and public health by preventing unproven, synthetic alternatives from entering our food supply.

Lab-grown meat raises significant concerns: long-term health and safety data are limited, production relies on untested processes (including potential use of growth factors, antibiotics, or immortalized cell lines), and it will disrupt Maryland's vital livestock and farming industry by competing unfairly with natural, pasture-raised meat without equivalent regulatory scrutiny. **Consumers deserve transparency and the right to choose traditional, naturally raised meat without synthetic substitutes being normalized or mislabeled.**

Several states (e.g., Florida, Alabama, Texas) have enacted similar bans to safeguard food integrity and support conventional agriculture. **Maryland should follow suit to prioritize consumer choice, protect family farms, and ensure our food system remains rooted in proven, natural methods rather than experimental technologies.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1023** and help keep lab-grown meat out of Maryland's food supply.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important agriculture, consumer protection, and health legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals