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House Health Committee

**HB1023 (Lab Grown Meat – Prohibition) – Favorable**

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the House Health Committee. For the record, my name is Collin Rolfes, and I am a member of Delegate Rose's staff. Today, I would like to give just the facts that have been found during my research here on this bill. In front of you is a packet of my sources, which consists of various Pubmed, NIH and other non-medical articles that show a disturbing trend of the effects of this new type of "meat" that we see now, only 3 years after the FDA approved lab grown meat.

But first, I would like to elaborate on what the good Delegate said on the process of making it. They either take a biopsy of an adult animal or stem cells from an embryo, to freeze until it is ready for use. Then this cell sample gets cloned and genetically modified until the mass of muscle and fat are ready to be formed. This "chicken nugget" is encased in a gel to grow with man made blood vessels. This method is not that common yet, but the main process involves feeding this mass with protein and fat in a liquid form, so the cells continue to grow and multiply into the meat that is desired. Then it is formed with either carving of the mass or 3d printing, like you see with the steak here on the left.

To get back to the health risks here, it should come as no surprise that cloning and engineering these cells into something we are supposed to eat increases the risk of cancer in those who consume it. These doctors also question the safety of the process due to the chemicals that are used and risk of bacterial or fungal infections spreading due to the mass production of

the meat, which we see in a company such as Upside Foods LLC. Even if you take these serious risks out of the picture, there is not enough nutritional value to justify this. A lot of the nutrients come from what animals eat, what are they eating in this case? An artificial concentration of protein and fat. It is not natural nor meant for human consumption.

Many European countries are extremely skeptical and some outright banned this meat for the same concerns that I have laid out for you all. The Delegate also mentioned states here in the US also either skeptical or outright banned it. This is an issue that must be handled sooner rather than later, and it is an issue that I think can be a great bipartisan effort. I respectfully request a favorable report on this bill. I am extremely thankful for this opportunity to speak on this matter.